

# What Does an Accountant Do?

**SUBMITTED BY:** WGYP Summer Educator

**SUBJECT(S):** Accounting

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 9, 10, 11, 12

## ≡ OVERVIEW:

In this lesson, students will be exposed to different accountants and learn about what being an accountant means.

## ≡ NBEA STANDARD(S):

- Accounting, I. The Accounting Profession

## ≡ RELATED ARTICLES:

- [“Who Knew the Job of a Prosecutor Looks Nothing Like “Law & Order?””](#)
- [“Peggy Bishop Lane on Why Accounting Is the Language of Business”](#)
- [“Inside Accounting: ‘There’s Room among the Pencil Pushers for Creative Types Like Me’”](#)

## Standards:

- Understand the role that accountants play in business and society.
- Describe career opportunities in the accounting profession.
- Demonstrate the skills and competencies required to be successful in the accounting profession and/or in an accounting-related career.

**Common Core Standard(s):**

- CCR Standard for Speaking and Listening: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
- CCR Standard for Speaking and Listening: Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
- CCR Standard for Reading: Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Objectives/Purposes:** Students will learn about the accounting professional

**Other Resources/Materials:**

- Computer with Internet access

**Activity Day:**

1. Do Now: On a piece of paper write your answers to the following questions: What do you think accountants do? What type of education, degrees and/or certifications do you need to be an accountant? What skills do accountants need to have?

2. As a class, read the article and answer the following questions:

- Who is JB King? What does she do? What is her message?
- What does this article tell you about accounting? Does this change your perspective about the profession?
- After reading the article, what have you learned about becoming an accountant?

3. Meeting some accountants. We are going to meet some accountants. On a piece of paper answer the following:

- Name of the accountant.
- What does he/she tell you about what accountants do?
- What advice does he/she give?
- What is the 1 thing you learned from this person?

- What is 1 question you would like to ask this person?

4. Teacher will play the following clips. Students need to answer the questions for each clip. After each clip the teacher will open it up for discussion.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhJxLU\\_R6B4&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhJxLU_R6B4&feature=relmfu)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsY4wBN9Xqk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3j1py-LSdm8&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3-TUfSK6-w&feature=related>

5. Wrap Up: What is one thing you learned about accountants?

### **Practice Outside of the Classroom:**

Students are responsible for going home and finding someone who is an accountant or does work within accounting. They need to interview that individual and write up a one-page paper describing the interview and what they learned from it.

### **What Worked and What I Would Do Differently:**

The teacher might want to see if there are any parents or community members who are accountants and ask them to come in and speak to the class. Bringing in a panel of accountants who do different types of accounting will give students a more personal connection.