

GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment

Bite of Reality Program



Overview

The GLCU Foundation believes it's never too early to start learning money basics and offers financial literacy programs to young people from ages 15-18. Bite of Reality is a simulation for high school students that gives them a taste of real-world financial realities. This 60–90-minute program uses modern technology (a web-based app) along with guidance from GLCU and GLCU Foundation facilitators to teach students how to budget.

Target Age: 15–18

Can be successfully delivered to slightly younger or older participants.

Activation

Teens are given a fictional occupation, salary, credit score, family, student loan debt, credit card debt, and medical insurance payments. They visit various table-top stations to “purchase” housing, transportation, food, clothing, and other needs with the assistance of GLCU and GLCU Foundation staff.

Students encounter pushy “car salespersons,” commission-based “realtors,” and weigh their wants versus their needs. There’s even a “Fickle Finger of Fate” that gives the students unexpected “expenses” or “windfalls” — just like in real life.

Bite of Reality teaches teens how to make financial decisions and give them a better understanding of the challenges of living on a budget, including:

- Practicing budgeting as an adult with realistic circumstances.
- Identifying and experiencing the consequences of poor decisions.
- Developing good judgement regarding spending and living within a budget.
- Understanding that budgeting is a necessary step in good money management and that it doesn’t have to be difficult.

How the Bite of Reality Program Works:

- Free to participating high schools and community partners
- GLCU provides the app, facilitator, and volunteers, plus all the supplies needed for the event
- School or partner provides student supervision

Join us in building a financially secure future for young people in our communities.

For more information on hosting a simulation, contact us at glcufoundation@glcu.org.