



Gas and Electric Company Helpful Hints

Thank you for volunteering to assist the students at *JA BizTown*. The job you have here today is very important. Please read and use the helpful hints listed below as you work with this business. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask a *JA BizTown* staff member.

1. The Gas and Electric Company will borrow money from the Bank. The CEO will take the **Loan Application** and **Promissory Note** to the Bank after the National Anthem.
2. The CEO should sign all checks. If they are not available the CFO may sign in their absence. The CFO should only print checks as they receive invoices from other businesses.
3. After the National Anthem, the Meter Reader will go to UPS with the check for supplies.
4. During the 45-minute set-up time, assist the Meter Reader as he/she reads the “How to Read a Meter” notebook and completes the practice sheet.
5. The Meter Reader will be taking Utility Applications to all JA BizTown businesses.
6. Assist the Meter Reader in preparation for appointments with business CEOs. Encourage the Utility Engineer to “persuade” CEOs to agree to an energy audit.
7. Refer to your “Meter Reader Answer Key” to check for accuracy of meter readings before they are entered onto the **CEO’s Checklist**. If they are incorrect, inform the Meter Reader.
8. Check each completed electric bill. Each bill should be no more than \$12.00.
9. Help the CEO with the closing town hall speech.



Gas & Electric Company Volunteer Facilitator Directions

START-UP TIME

(45 minutes)

Start-Up Time lasts a total of 45 minutes. This Start-Up time involves:

- 20 minutes of uninterrupted time for Staff Meeting #1. No Student should leave the business unless they need to use the restroom during this time. This meeting allows time for the discussion listed below and time for students to read their own Job Simulations. At the conclusion of this 20 minute uninterrupted time, the National Anthem will be played signaling that those students whose jobs take them out into *JA BizTown* may begin to perform their tasks.
- All employees will remain in their business to continue with Start-Up tasks unless their job requires them to leave.
- At the conclusion of the 45 minutes, a *JA BizTown* staff member will call all employees out of their business for the Opening Town Meeting.

Staff Meeting #1

Gather your employees into a small group. This is a time when you take charge of the group. As employees are introduced, write their names on the Break Schedule on the line next to their job title. This will let you and the students know which break period they are on.

- 1. Introduce yourself, greet the students, and review employee responsibilities. The CFO should already be at their desk working. As you identify which students are doing the different jobs, be sure to place their names on the break schedule.**

ASK: Who is the CEO?

SAY: You are responsible for the smooth operation of the Gas and Electric Company. You will make business operational decisions, print out all bills, deliver bills and supervise employees. You will also give a speech at the closing town hall meeting to tell citizens about energy information your team gathered. Be certain all employees are familiar with their responsibilities and are courteous to customers.

ASK: Who are the Utility Engineers?

SAY: You are responsible for purchasing supplies from UPS as well as conducting an energy audit with the JA BizTown businesses. After the energy audit you will need to change the air filter for that business. Be certain to provide customers with excellent and courteous service.

ASK: *Who are the Meter Readers?*

SAY: *You are responsible for reading the meters throughout JA BizTown as well as taking care of utility applications. You will assist with the billing process and collect all payments after the CEO delivers bills.*

SAY: *Everyone needs to read your Simulation Guide frequently to make sure you are handling all of your responsibilities correctly. After the Opening Town Meeting, our breaks will start. Let's make sure our paperwork will be ready for making personal deposits at KeyBank. Please turn in your checkbook to your first deposit ticket. Is it completed? Let's check to be certain that you have entered the correct amount on your deposit ticket. (Refer to the Gross/Net Pay Chart below.)*

Job Title	Gross Pay	Net Pay
CEO	\$9.00	\$8.82
CFO	\$8.50	\$8.33
Meter Reader, Utility Engineers	\$8.00	\$7.84

ASK: *Have you decided how much cash you will be requesting?*
(Be sure each student has completely filled out a deposit ticket and has not asked for more than \$2.00 in cash. Remember, cash can only be used for purchases at the Café, the Business Journal, or for personal philanthropy donations at the Animal Shelter. All other businesses take checks only.)

SAY: *Has your first deposit been entered into your checkbook register?*
(Students have been taught to use a double entry system for recording entries in the checkbook register. Be sure students enter the net deposit, which is the bottom number on the deposit ticket, in the deposit column as well as in the balance column of their checkbook register. Have them add to get a new balance.)

SAY: *Next, we need to be certain you are ready to open your savings account when you go to KeyBank. Have you written your \$1.50 check to KeyBank for opening your savings account and recorded your check in the payment/debit column and in the balance column? After you have completed that, then subtract and put the answer on the gray line.*

SAY: *When it's time for your break, you will get your paycheck from the CFO and endorse it. Then you'll need to take it, your completed deposit ticket, your \$1.50 check written to KeyBank and your completed checkbook register to KeyBank.*

SAY: *Now, before each of you begin reading your Simulation Guide; let's quickly talk about our business goals for the day. What do you think some of our goals should be?*
(Students should discuss teamwork, customer service, cooperation, repayment of KeyBank loan and making a profit.)

SAY: *Now you need to go to your work area, read your Simulation Guide, become familiar with your job responsibilities, and begin to work. Remember, you may not leave our business until you hear the National Anthem.*

Opening Town Meeting

JA BizTown staff will instruct students to sit in the middle of the Town Square. Please remind students to be seated quickly and quietly.

Break Rotation #1

Students are divided into three groups and will rotate to take breaks. Refer to your break schedule to see which rotation students are on. While one group is at break, the other two groups should be working. Remind students to check with their boss before leaving for break or work-related duties. Also, remind students going to break that they must go to KeyBank to deposit their paychecks and eat lunch.

Staff Meeting # 2

(10 minutes at the conclusion of Break Rotation #1)

Have the students bring their checkbooks and pencils to meet with you in a group. This is again a time when you must take charge of the group. Please use the entire 10 minutes and use this script to assure that you complete all necessary tasks. **No telephones should be used during these 10 minutes.**

1. Prepare for second and final break:

SAY: *Please turn to your next deposit ticket and let's complete it.*

(Be sure each student completely fills out a deposit ticket and has not asked for more than \$2.00 in cash. Be sure students enter the net deposit, which is the bottom number from the deposit ticket. This net deposit should be entered in the deposit column as well as the balance column of their checkbook register. Have them add to get a new balance.)

SAY: *Did anyone make any purchases on the last break? Did you record the checks you wrote in your checkbook register?*

(Compare registers with purchased items to be certain that employees are recording each purchase. If not, bring the registers up-to-date.)

SAY: *This is your last chance to go shopping, so watch your time carefully. Spend your money wisely, but spend it before leaving JA BizTown, you cannot take it with you.*

(Be sure students know what time they are to be back from break and how much money they need to spend during this final break.)

2. Discuss the first production period by asking the following questions:

ASK: *Are we courteous to all of our customers?*

ASK: *Is the Meter Reader successfully reading the JA BizTown business meters?*

- ASK: *Are Gas and Electric Applications being collected?*
ASK: *Has the Utility Engineer successfully begun the Energy Audits?*
ASK: *Have the bills been delivered and payments collected?*

Break Rotation #2

Remind students to check in with their boss before leaving for break or work-related duties. Also, remind students going to break that they must go to KeyBank to deposit their paychecks.

Closing Staff Meeting and Clean Up

(20 minutes)

Have the students bring their checkbooks and pencils to again meet with you in a group. Remember, this is the final business staff meeting of the day. The time allotted for this Closing Staff Meeting and Clean-Up period is 20 minutes. Please use the entire 20 minutes to accomplish both goals in the manner most suitable for your business. All business production is over, and it is time to reflect on the day and discuss whether the business was successful.

1. Reflection

- ASK: *How many of you remember what our business goal was today at JA BizTown?*
(Review with students that paying off the business bank loan was the business measure of success for the day.)
- ASK: *Did we meet that business goal?*
(Ask the CFO to give a brief report about loan repayment if necessary. If KeyBank loan was repaid, discuss how that repayment spelled success and review the term profit. If KeyBank loan was not repaid, discuss why and what could have been done differently to insure business success.)
- ASK: *What are some things that you learned today about how a business becomes successful?*
(Briefly review and discuss the importance of teamwork, individual job responsibility, proper pricing, advertising, etc. to the success of a business.)
- ASK: *How many of you feel that you were personally successful today? Why or why not?*
(Discuss the importance of being an effective business team member and help them to recall and review the importance of circular flow.)
- SAY: *Name some of the challenges of keeping a personal checkbook register. Name a benefit of keeping a checkbook register.*
- ASK: *Why is it important that before we attend the Closing Town Meeting, we each lend a hand to clean-up our JA BizTown business?*
(Discuss what needs to be done to effectively clean-up the business and oversee clean-up completion by the students.)

2. Clean-Up

- Put all materials, including the Simulation Guides and Volunteer Manuals, and supplies back in the original location. If you have extra inventory place it back in the UPS supply box for JA BizTown staff to pick up later.

- Pick-up everything on the floor.
- **Do not** turn off the computers.
- Teachers may be interested in taking completed business paperwork back to school for follow-up, especially student checkbooks. Collect these items and place them back in to the manila envelope the students brought from school and give to the CEO to take back to school.

3. Money Collection

- Collect all *JA BizTown* coins, dollar bills, and any other *JA BizTown* re-usable materials from students and adults. Give them to a *JA BizTown* staff member or leave them in the business.

SAY: When you feel our business is cleaned to our best, please gather your personal materials and stand by the doorway until we are called by the JA staff to attend the Closing Town Meeting.

(Be certain that students leave no personal items behind. Replace all uniforms or materials belonging to *JA BizTown*.)

Closing Town Meeting

Have students wait in their business until the announcement for the Closing Town Meeting. *JA BizTown* staff will instruct students where to sit for this meeting. Please remind students to be seated quickly and quietly.

Dismissal

As you leave, please fill out a Facilitator Comment Card located on the counter next to the girl's restroom.

Thank you for your assistance today. We couldn't have operated without you!!!



Gas & Electric Company Volunteer Checklist

Before National Anthem

- ✧ Hold 1st Staff Meeting
- ✧ All students need to read their simulation guide
- ✧ CFO enters loan amount, enters all employees in the computer, completes all payroll checks and passes out first payroll check to employees

After National Anthem - before Opening Town Hall Meeting

- ✧ CEO - Take loan papers to KeyBank
- ✧ CFO - Print UPS check
- Pay invoices as they arrive
- ✧ Meter Reader - Visit business to read electric meters and fill out utility applications
- ✧ Utility Engineer - Begin to visit businesses to talk about Energy Conservation
- Pick up order from UPS

During 1st break rotation

- ✧ CEO - Prepare invoices as meter readings are gathered
- Deliver printed invoices to businesses
- Pick up health vouchers from Community Wellness Center
- ✧ CFO - Print checks as invoices are received
- Batch business deposits as payments are received
- ✧ Meter Reader - Finish meter reading and information transfer to CEO Bill Checklist
- Begin to collect payments
- ✧ Utility Engineer - Finish visiting businesses to talk about Energy Conservation

During 2nd Staff Meeting

- ✧ CFO should pass out second payroll check
- ✧ Help students complete second payroll deposit

During 2nd break rotation

- ✧ CEO - Supervise staff and help where needed
- Make sure CFO makes business deposits
- Practice or assign Closing Town Hall speech
- ✧ CFO - Print checks as invoices are received
- Batch business deposits as payments are received
- ✧ Meter Reader - Complete collecting business payments
- ✧ Utility Engineer - Change air filters in businesses
- Complete and deliver Energy Conservation Certificates

After 2nd set of breaks – before Closing Town Hall Meeting

- ✧ Hold 3rd staff meeting
- ✧ CFO should make final business deposit
- ✧ Students return hats and vests to original location
- ✧ Collect any unused cash or coin from students to return to JA BizTown staff
- ✧ Return all simulation guides to black holder
- ✧ Collect personal belongings, attend Closing Town Hall Meeting when announced