

The background features a photograph of students in a classroom. A young woman in the foreground is looking down at a book or paper. Other students are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a blue-to-purple gradient and several thick, diagonal, semi-transparent colored bars in yellow, green, and black.

MAKING IT BALANCE

Virtual classroom resources to introduce your
high school students to a career in audit

DISCOVER AUDIT

ABOUT MAKING IT BALANCE

Most of us think of a career as a ladder, with only one way to go. *Making it Balance* proves a career in audit is actually an ever-evolving journey; one that can move in any direction as you change and grow. This documentary take you along for the ride as Sobia, Leilani, and Da'Rell—three young adults on a mission to meet leaders who began their careers in audit or accounting and learn from them—travel across the country in search of what it looks like to pave your own career path. You will hear from inspiring leaders like Cathy Engelbert, WNBA commissioner and the first woman to lead a Big Four accounting firm in the US, and Bryan Ford, a former CPA who combined his business savvy and love of bread to become a baking consultant for bakeries around the world, you'll see that careers are anything but static; you get to choose and define the path as you go.

ABOUT DISCOVER AUDIT

[Discover Audit](#) is an initiative of the [Center for Audit Quality](#) aimed at introducing the exciting and dynamic world of public company auditing to the next generation. Discover Audit is dedicated to developing resources to help anyone – from parents to high school students, to accounting majors and graduate students, experienced professionals, and even educators/ counselors – learn more about a career in public company auditing and the many reasons to Discover Audit.

READY TO WATCH?

Do you want to introduce your students to the exciting possibilities a career in audit can bring, but are not sure how to? Use this toolkit to plan a virtual screening of *Making It Balance* for your students. Start with the checklist on the next page, and we'll see you on the road!



GETTING READY

MEET THE ROADTRIPPERS

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Learn more about the Roadtrippers as you join them on the journey of a lifetime through career discovery.

SETTING UP

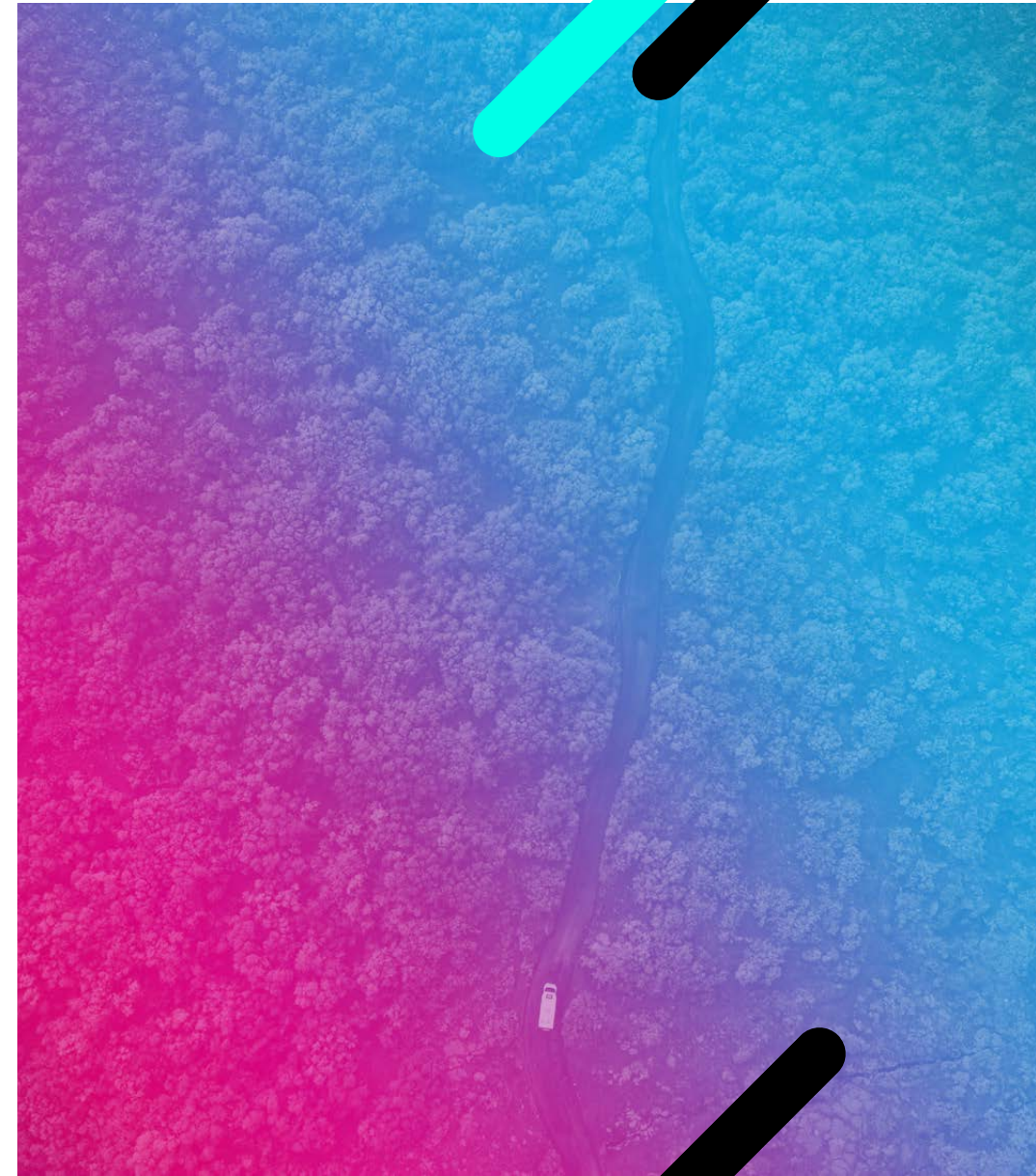
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Invite your students to join you in watching the documentary. Or, alternatively assign your invitees to watch it on their own and come together to share their thoughts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND BRAINSTORMING

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Now that you've seen the documentary, it's time to reflect and share! Reference the discussion guide to get the conversation started. After your viewing experience, share more about the documentary, with sample social media content that will help you get the word out.



MEET THE ROADTRIPPERS



SOBIA, 22 | Atlanta, GA

“I think life is about doing things that make you really uncomfortable,” says Sobia Bhatti, a recent grad from Georgia Institute of Technology who’s ready to find her footing in the working world. It’s a bold mindset she didn’t always have. Originally from a small, quiet town in Georgia, when Sobia moved to bustling Atlanta to go to school, she learned quickly that clinging to your comfort zone only holds you back from growth—you’ve just got to throw yourself in the deep end and start adapting. Sobia’s spent all of college learning to get comfortable with change, but she’s still pretty terrified of what’s next in life: she’s about to start a position at a big accounting firm, and while her family worries that corporate culture is too challenging for her—or any woman minority—to succeed in, Sobia is ready to find mentors who can show her it’s possible.



DA'RELL, 21 | Houston, TX

Twenty-one-year-old Da'Rell knows he doesn't look like the typical mold people envision when they think of an auditor or accountant. “As a black male accounting student at a historically black university, I am aware of the rarity I represent when I step out into the world,” he says. In Da'Rell's eyes, though, his unique position isn't a hurdle; it's an opportunity. A chance to blaze the trail for those coming up, challenge perceptions, and create change. In that sense, Da'Rell's goals in accounting aren't just personal; they're social. A big believer that education opens doors, he aspires to one day build a firm that focuses on educating black-owned businesses on financial topics. Impacting the greater good is a priority, but so is providing for his immediate family. As a father, Da'Rell wants to give his children the best life possible, and a career in the auditing profession offers the stability he's looking for, while also allowing him to be part of something bigger than himself.



LEILANI, 22 | Huntington Beach, CA

For Leilani, auditing and accounting offer a sense of certainty she's been missing in her life. A recent graduate from California State University, Long Beach, Leilani has worked hard in school and even landed work before graduating. But California is a long way from her family, who live in Guam, where she grew up. Moving across the world alone for college was always a given—her small island home holds a place in her heart, but it just didn't have the opportunities she wanted for her future. So when she got to college, she threw herself into her studies to make sure her sacrifices were worth it. But now that she's graduated, Leilani is tired of missing her family. With her entrepreneurial spirit guiding her, she's looking to auditing to give her the business savvy to be able to open her own business someday so she can provide for her family and give her little sister the chance to live a better life without having to go through what she did.

A background image of four young adults (three men and one woman) smiling and looking at a map. The image is overlaid with a blue-to-purple gradient. The text is in white and yellow.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ROADTRIP OF A LIFETIME!

**Now streaming on
DiscoverAudit.org/MakingItBalance**

Three students will travel across the country to discover what it takes to succeed in auditing and accounting, fueled by the Center of Audit Quality's Discover Audit initiative.

Watch and learn from three young adults and profession's leaders that there's no one path to success.

Join us at
DiscoverAudit.org
to learn more
about where audit
can take you!

**DISCOVER
AUDIT**

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sharing the *Making it Balance* documentary with your students can be a great way to engage them. If you're hosting a premier event for them, consider these discussion questions as you reflect with the group:

Shared Experiences

How did you feel while watching *Making it Balance*?

When you think about your future career, what are your most important considerations? Why are they important to you?

Do the experiences of Sobia, Leilani, and Da'Rell resemble your own?

Your Influencers

What piece of advice that Sobia, Leilani, and Da'Rell received from the interviewees resonated the most with you, and why?

Who are some of the people who have influenced you throughout high school, and what advice have they shared with you that has resonated as you begin to think about college and career planning?

How can our school help high school freshmen begin to think about college and career planning earlier? What are some of the resources you have found most helpful?

What Now?

After watching *Making it Balance*, do you think or feel differently about charting your career path?

What are some of the key takeaways from the documentary that will influence the way you go through the rest of your high school experience?

What are some of the key takeaways from the documentary that will influence your discussions with your guidance counselors and teachers?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND BRAINSTORMING

Share Your Road Portal

Discover Audit, in partnership with Roadtrip Nation, has developed the [Share Your Road](#) portal, which highlights the career journeys of auditors and accountants from all different backgrounds.

Point your students to this resource to discover that an accounting career path is not linear and provides many different opportunities down the road.

DiscoverAudit.org

Explore additional resources on the Discover Audit website.

We have downloadable presentations and curriculum planning resources built for high school classrooms. Find our [High School Educator resource page here](#) and point your students to the [resource center for high school students](#).

Bonus: all of our resources are built for virtual learning!

Extra Credit

Consider leveraging this documentary in the classroom as an extra credit assignment. Ask your students to submit video or essay responses to any of the discussion questions outlined in this document.

We're offering brownie points from the Center for Audit Quality and Discover Audit team if you and your students share some content on social media about this documentary using the [#MakingItBalance](#) hashtag.



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