

Show work:

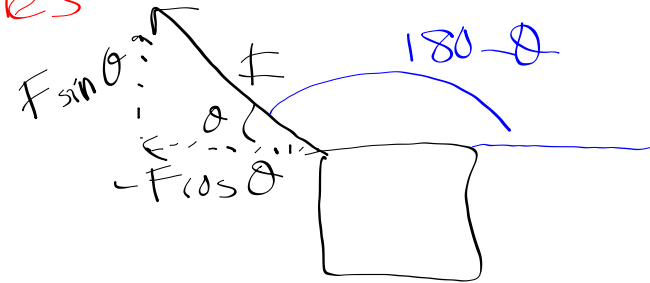
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→ System of variables

→ Diagrams

→ Equations

→ Use words, arrows,  
etc.

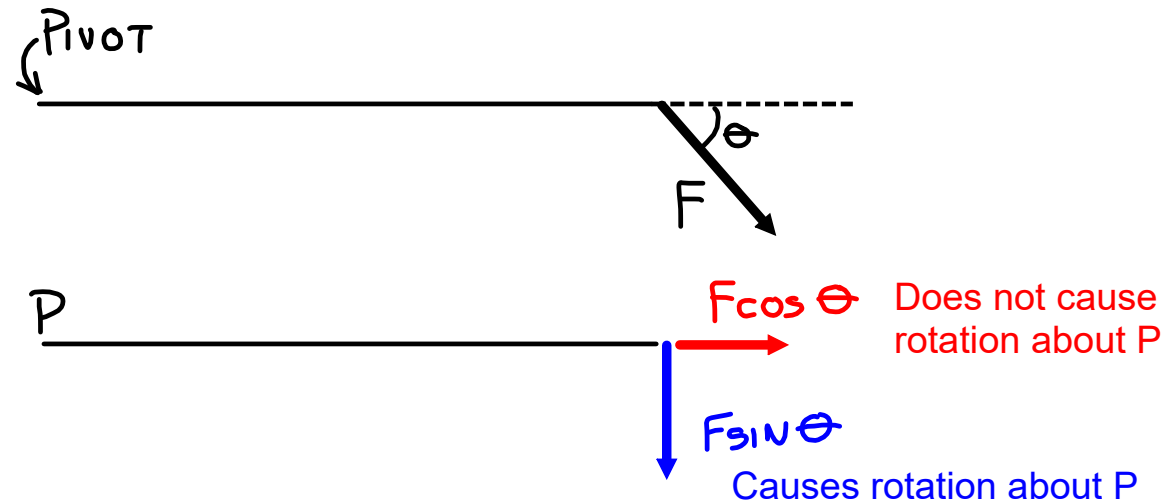


$$\Sigma F_x = 0$$

# **Torque and Rotational Equilibrium**

## Torque:

A torque is required to cause something to rotate.



In general:

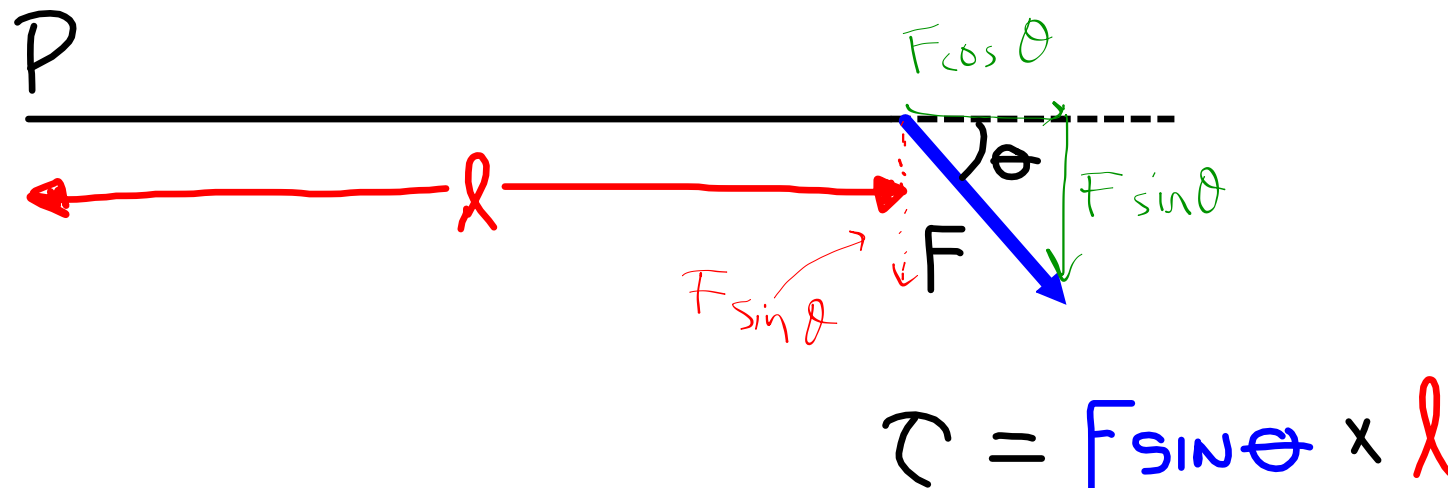
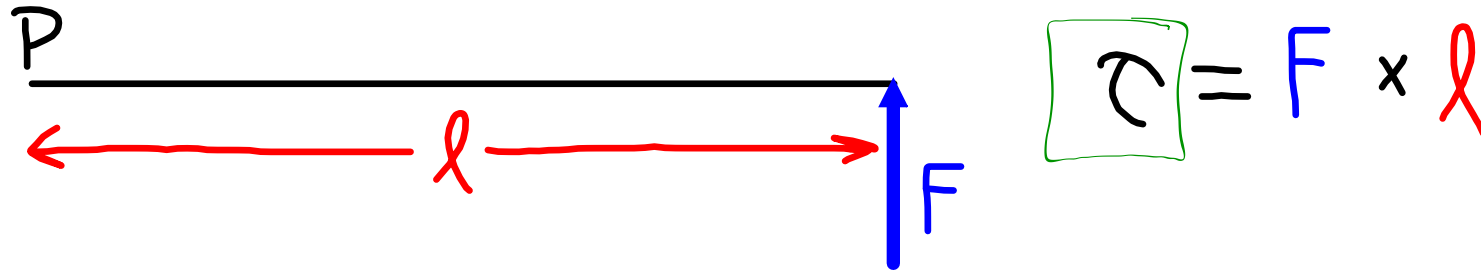
$$\text{TORQUE} = \tau = F \times l$$

$F$  = A FORCE  $\perp$  To  $l$

$l$  = LEVER ARM (The displacement between the "pivot" and the location where the force is being applied)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{N} \cdot \text{m} & \text{ or } \text{N} \cdot \text{m} \\ \text{lb} \cdot \text{ft} & \text{ or } \text{lb} \cdot \text{ft} \end{aligned}$$

# Examples of determining torque:



# Rotational Equilibrium

When considering cases of **translational** equilibrium, the location on a body at which a force acts is not important.

$$\Sigma F_x = 0$$

$$\Sigma F_y = 0$$

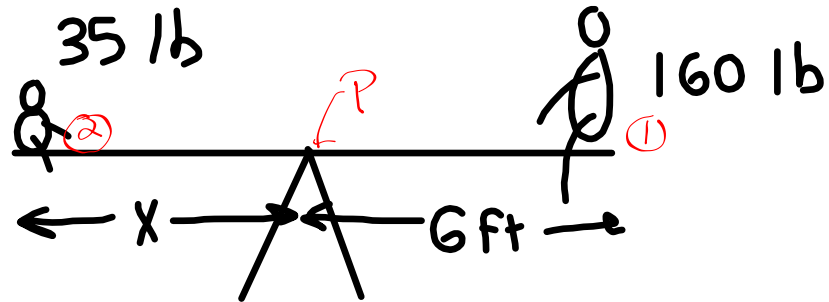
When considering cases of **rotational** equilibrium, the location at which a force acts is important.

$$\Sigma F_x = 0$$

$$\Sigma F_y = 0$$

$$\Sigma \tau = 0$$

(No matter what point is taken to be the pivot. Rotational equilibrium exists only when the sum of the torques about ALL points on an object is zero).

EXAMPLE 1:

WHAT MUST X BE TO  
ACHIEVE EQUILIBRIUM?


$$\begin{aligned} \tau_1 &= 160 \text{ lb} \cdot 6 \text{ ft} \\ &= \boxed{960 \text{ lb} \cdot \text{ft}} \end{aligned}$$

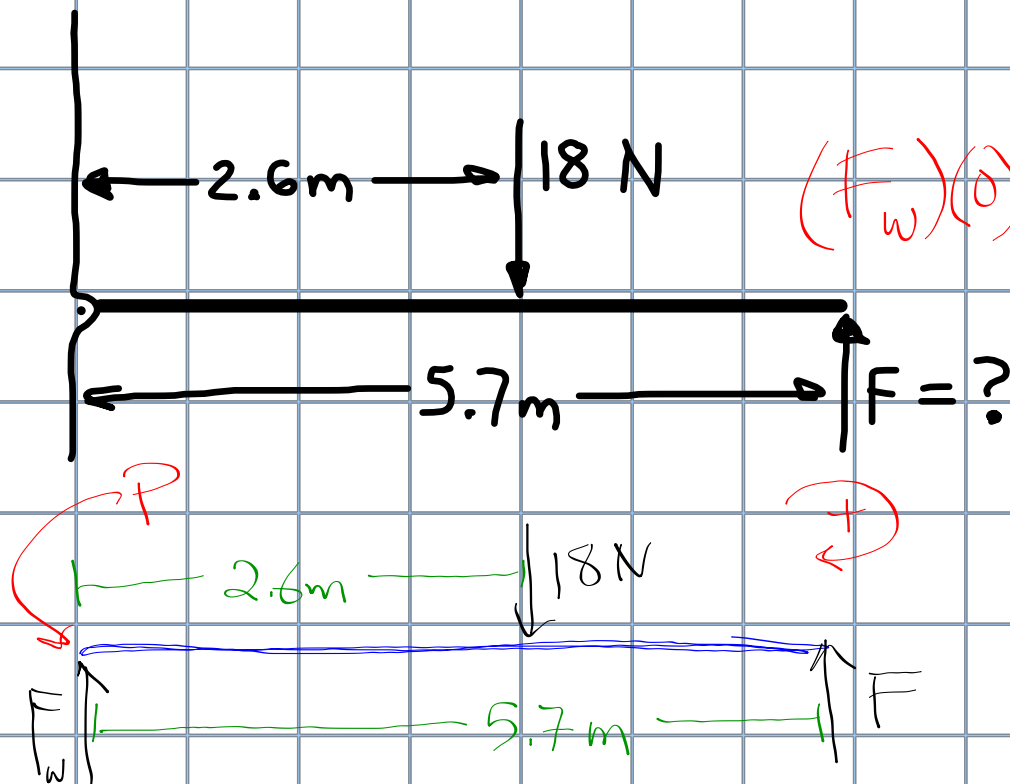
$$\tau_2 = \boxed{35 \text{ lb} \cdot x}$$

$$35x = 960$$

$$x = 27.4 \text{ ft}$$

## Using Rotational Equilibrium as a problem-solving tool:

1. Draw a FBD. *→ try to locate forces ~ correctly*
2. Identify a point to serve as a pivot. (Note: if in equilibrium, the object will NOT be pivoting. Also, ANY point could serve as a reference for lever arms).
3. Establish a reference rotation (+/-). 
4. Resolve all forces into components:
  - One perpendicular to the lever arm
  - One parallel to the lever arm *← important for translation*
5. The sum of all torques about any (and every) point on the object must equal zero.  $\sum \tau = 0$
6. Solve for unknowns.

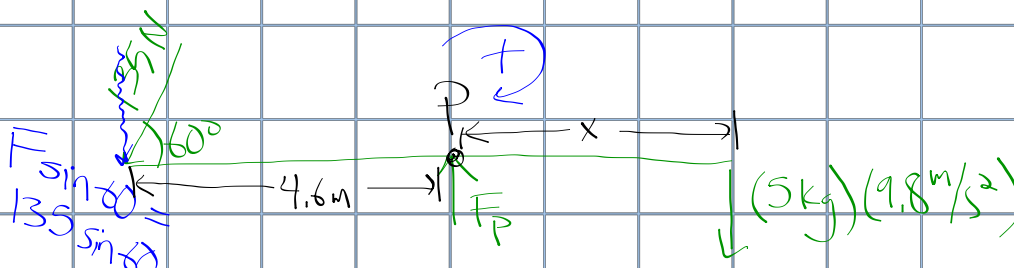
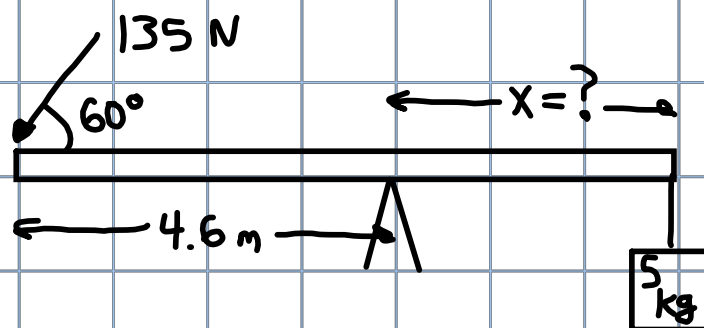
EXAMPLE 2

$$\sum \tau = 0$$

$$(F_w)(0) + (18)(2.6) + (F)(5.7) = 0$$

$$F = \frac{(18)(2.6)}{5.7}$$
$$= 8.21 \text{ N}$$



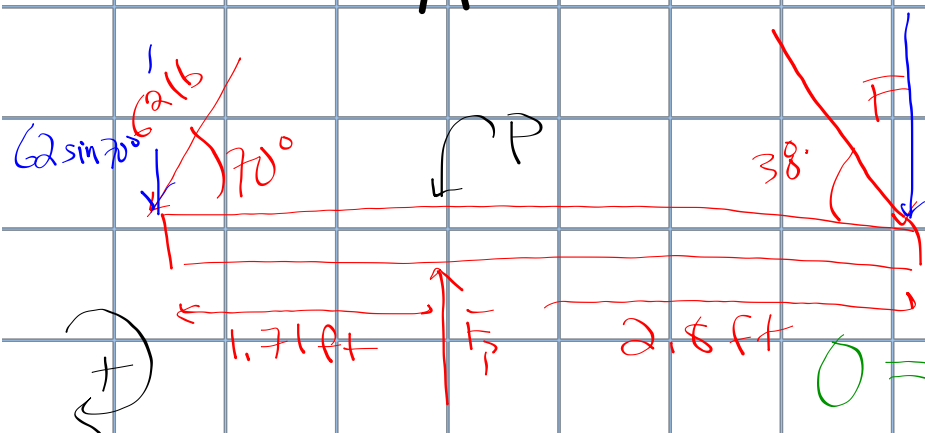
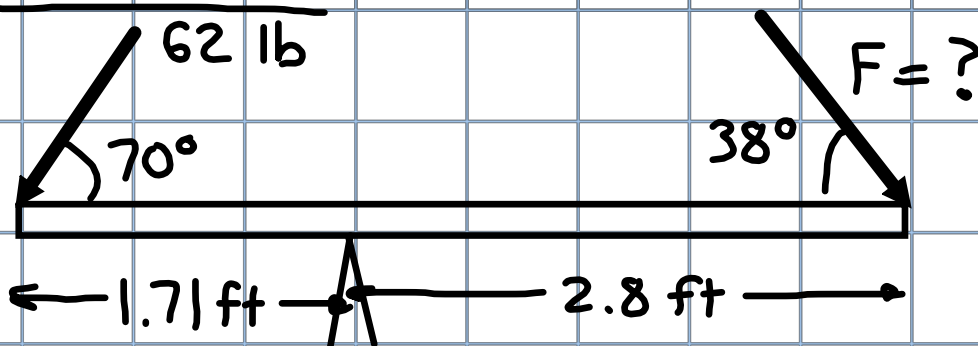
EXAMPLE 3

$$\sum \tau = 0$$

$$-(135 \sin 60)(4.6) + (5)(9.8)x = 0$$

$$x = \frac{(135 \sin 60)(4.6)}{5(9.8)}$$

$$x = 10.98 \text{ m}$$

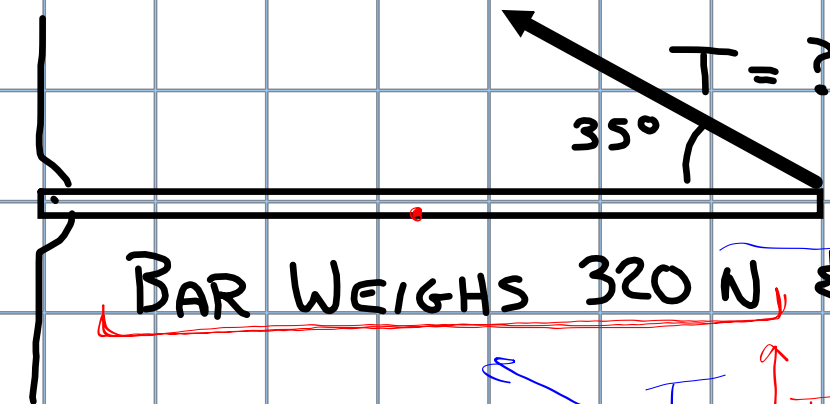
EXAMPLE 4

$$\sum \tau = 0$$

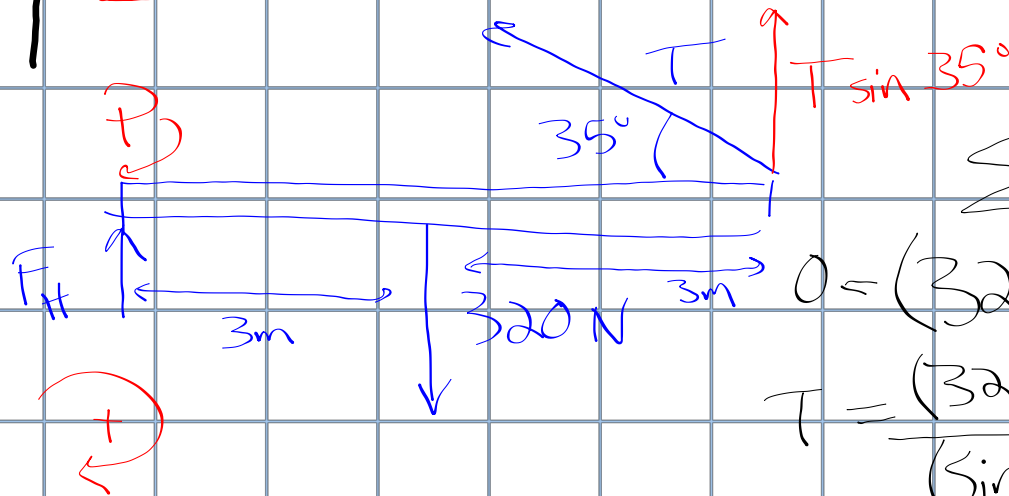
$$0 = -(62 \sin 70)(1.71) + F \sin 38(2.8)$$

$$F = \frac{62(\sin 70)(1.71)}{(\sin 38)(2.8)} = \boxed{57.8 \text{ lb}}$$

## EXAMPLE 5



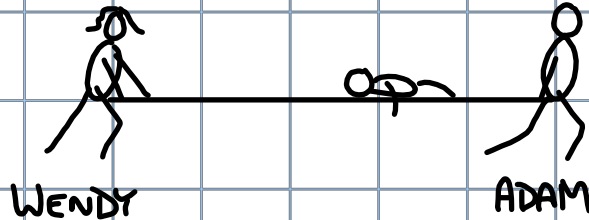
Weight acts as a force at the object's center of mass ("C.O.M.")



$$\sum \tau = 0$$

$$0 = (320)(3) + (T \sin 35^\circ)(6)$$

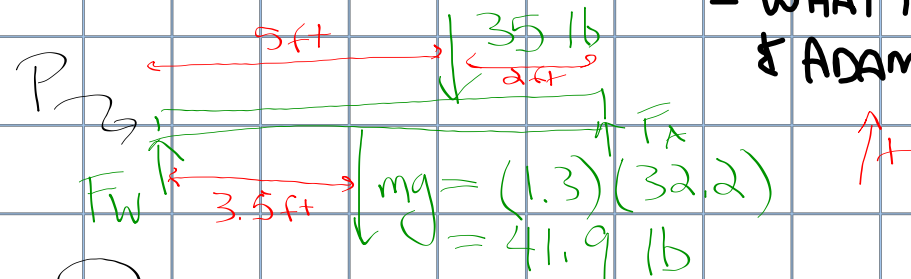
$$T = \frac{(320)(3)}{(\sin 35^\circ)(6)} = 279 \text{ N}$$

EXAMPLE 6

- STRETCHER (1.3 slugs) is 7.0 ft Long

- Foster's (35 lb) C.O.M. is 2.0 ft From ADAM

- WHAT FORCES MUST WENDY & ADAM APPLY?



$$\sum \tau = 0$$

$$(41.9)(3.5) + (35)(5) + -F_A(7) = 0$$

$$F_A = \frac{(41.9)(3.5) + (35)(5)}{7} = 46 \text{ lb}$$

$$\sum F_y = 0$$

$$F_W - 41.9 - 35 + 46 = 0$$

$$F_W = 31 \text{ lb}$$