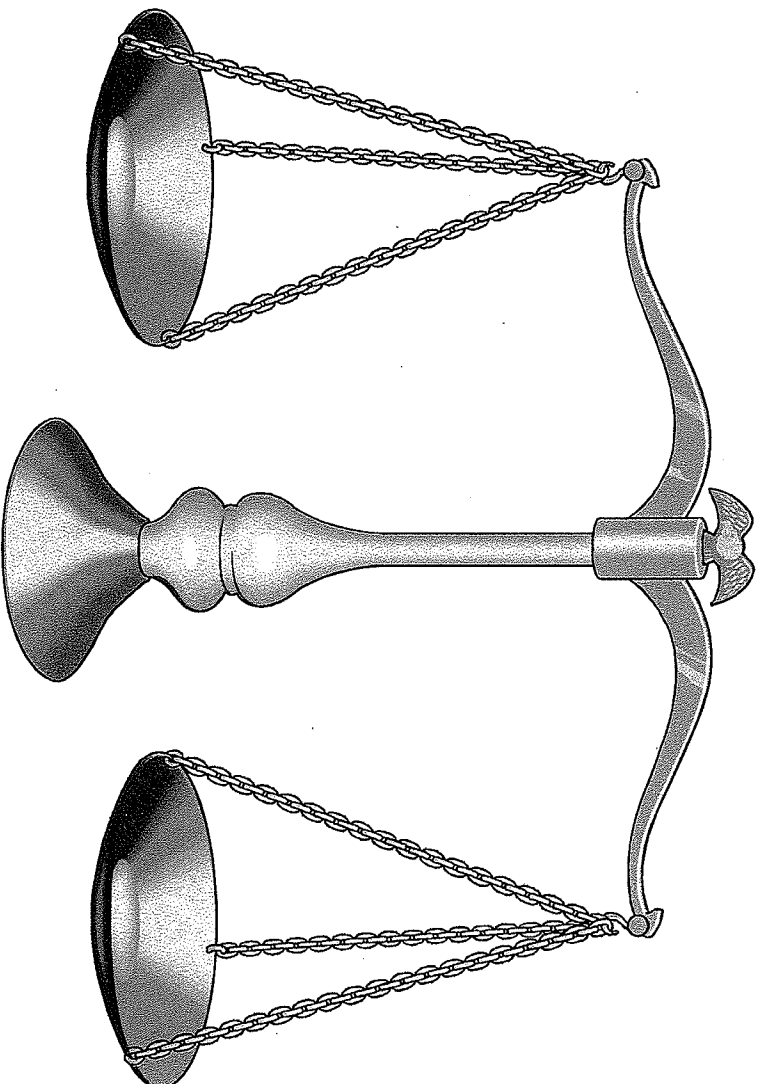


Scales of Justice

The scales of justice are a symbol of the weighing of evidence by a jury or by a judge to determine whether a case is proven.



Different weights of evidence are required for different types of cases. For example, in a criminal case, a defendant can be found guilty only by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt. In many civil cases, such as those where someone is seeking a recovery of money, the weight of evidence required is a preponderance of the evidence, less "weight" than is necessary in a criminal case.

WORKING SCALES OF JUSTICE ACTIVITY

You can make your own working scales of justice! All you need are scissors, and 8" 10" piece of light cardboard (such as the front of a cereal box), glue, three brass prong-style fasteners, and the cutouts from this page. If you would like to color your scales, you will also need crayons or markers.

1. Cut along the dotted line to separate these instructions from the cutouts.
2. Color each part of the scale, if you wish
3. Glue the piece of paper with the scale parts to the cardboard. Allow to dry.
4. Cut out all the parts. You should have four pieces: the stand (1), the balance(2), and two scales(3 and 4).
5. Using one of the brass fasteners, attach the balance (2) to the front of the stand (1). Use the black dots as a guide when inserting the fastener.
6. Next attach each of the scales (3 and 4) to one end of the balance (2).

7. Now you have your own scales of justice! Move the balance and the scales to show how the weight of evidence changes.

What would the scales have to look like to prove the defendant guilty in a criminal trial?

To award someone damages in a civil trial?

