

# BALANCING ACT

## A TASK based Instant Challenge

**Challenge:** Your TASK is to build a free-standing See-Saw, also called a Teeter-Totter, that has at least two long, creative arms balanced as high above the table as possible. For the purpose of this challenge, a free standing See-Saw is a structure that has a base that is not attached to the table, and that supports at least one set of arms. Each set of arms may only touch the base in ONE place and must balance and extend out and away from the base. The arms must support two (2) washers in a balanced position.

**Set-up:** Table with materials for you to build with.

**Procedure:** Keep it balanced! Using the materials given, build a free-standing base that will balance at least one set of arms as high above the table as possible. Your set(s) of arms must also be creative and as long as possible. The set(s) of arms may not be attached to the base. Each set of arms may only touch the base at one point and may not touch the table. Each arm must support a minimum of two washers in a balance position for 5 seconds. You may stop time at any point when you are ready to be scored. For the purpose of this challenge, “balanced” means that the arms must be touching the base at only one point and nothing else, while supporting the two washers.

### Timing:

**Part 1 (7 min.):** You have up to 7 minutes to use your IMAGINATION to build your free-standing See-Saw, get it balanced and support the two washers on the arm(s) for five seconds. You may stop time at any point when you are ready to be scored.

### Materials:

- |                      |                        |                       |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • 2 plastic straws   | • 1 clothes pin        | • 2 pencil erasers    |
| • 1 piece of paper   | • 1 pipe cleaner       | • 2 rubber bands      |
| • 6 mailing labels   | • 2 coffee stir sticks | • 1 small paper plate |
| • 2 cone shaped cups | • 2 washers            |                       |

**Scoring:** You will receive

- 40 points if you have a free-standing See-Saw that remains balanced with the 2 washers supported on the arm(s) for 5 seconds.
- 1 point for each inch of height of structure (15 point maximum).
- 1 point for each inch of length of arms (15 point maximum).
- Up to 10 points for the creativity of the arms.
- Up to 20 points for how well your team worked together.