

# SOLVING A PHYSICS PROBLEM



STEP 1: READ THE PROBLEM THOROUGHLY



STEP 2: DRAW A PICTURE



STEP 3: IDENTIFY DATA AND ESTABLISH UNKNOWNS



STEP 4: CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE EQUATIONS



STEP 5: SOLVE THE EQUATIONS



STEP 6: EVALUATE AND UNDERSTAND THE ANSWER



WHILE READING, MAKE AN EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON, WHAT KIND OF CONCEPTS ARE BEING APPLIED.

IT WILL HELP TO VISUALIZE. DRAW AND LABEL WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PROBLEM.

LOOK FOR NUMBERS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFO. WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SOLVE FOR?

FIND OUT WHICH EQUATIONS YOU MIGHT NEED TO USE. LOOK FOR EQUATIONS THAT WILL HELP YOU SOLVE WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AND THAT HAVE VALUES YOU CAN PLUG IN.

THERE CAN BE ONE EQUATION OR THERE CAN BE MULTIPLE. ONCE YOU PLUG IN YOUR VALUES, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF SOLVING FOR THE "UNKNOWN" VARIABLE.

DOES THE ANSWER MAKE SENSE? IS THE VALUE LOGICAL? IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE ANSWER THAT YOU GOT? WHAT DOES IT MEAN IN THE REAL WORLD?