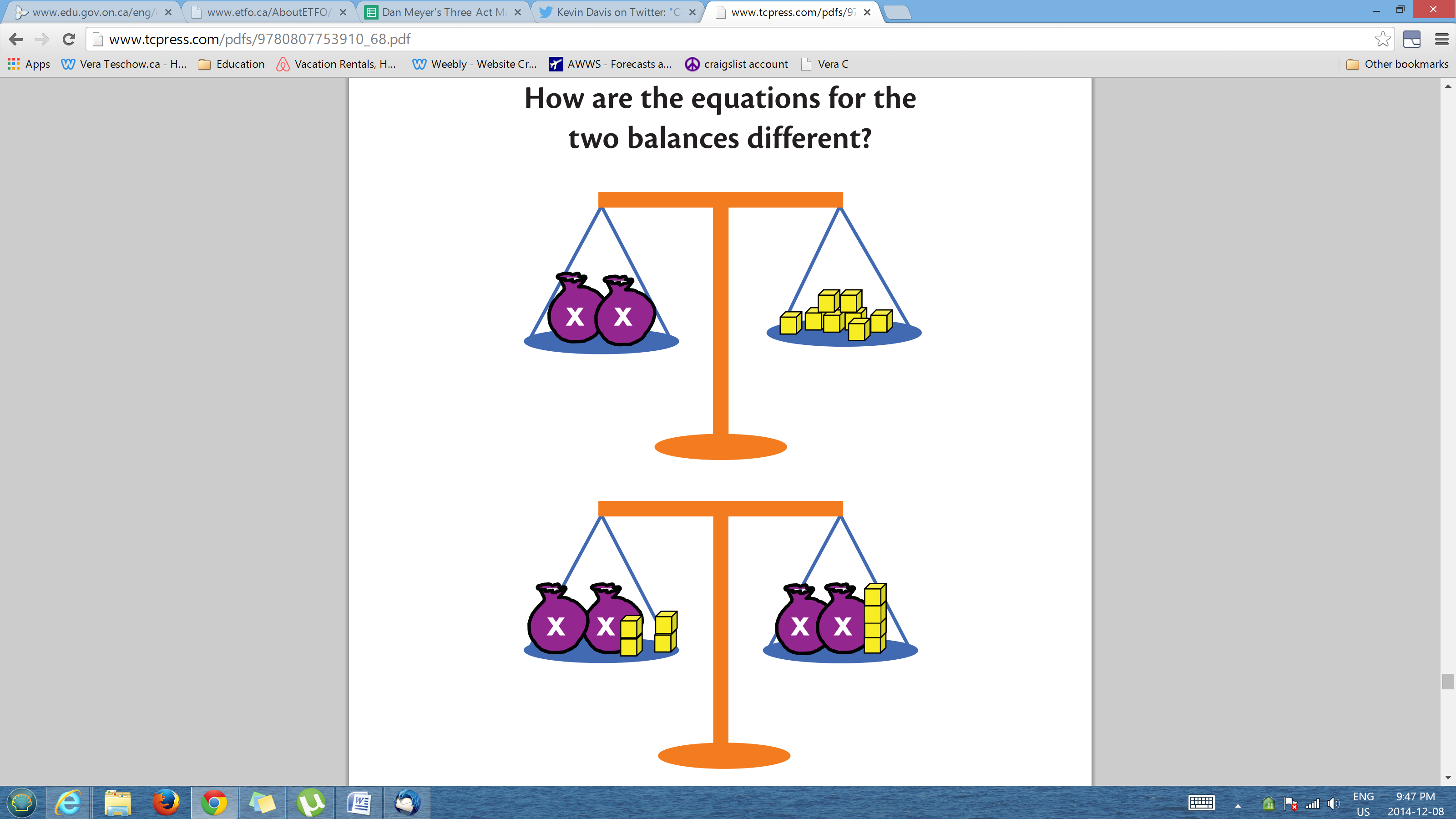


**Some questions to think about and discuss:**

* If you thought of each bag as holding *x* cubes, what amounts would be on the two sides of the balance?
* What would happen if you put two cubes in each bag?
* What would happen if you put 6 cubes in each bag?
* Why might you take three bags off each side of the balance?
* How can you figure out the solution without just trying numbers?



**Some questions to think about and discuss:**

1. What equation matches each pan balance?
2. What would happen if you put 2 cubes in each *x* bag for the first balance? For the second balance?
3. What if you put 4 cubes in each bag?
4. how do you know you can't make the first balance work if you put *more* than 4 cubes into the *x* bags?
5. How do you know you can put any number of cubes in the *x* bags for the second balance?
6. Which equation tells you that two expressions are equivalent? Which one doesn't?