

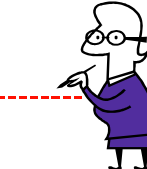



# Deconstructing Web Pages

This exercise takes you step by step through the process of deconstructing a Web page in order to determine its credibility as a source of information.

Use these icons to guide your work:

	<b>Read and think about</b> what's being said
	<b>Search</b> for something on the World Wide Web
	<b>Record your findings.</b> Be specific!!
	<b>Stop, reflect and write!</b>



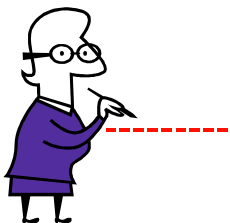
Imagine that you have to research a science project on the artificial sweetener, Aspartame. You come across an article is identified as a presentation made by a woman named Nancy Markle at the "World Environmental Conference on Aspartame"



View the page at [www.rense.com/health/sweetners.htm](http://www.rense.com/health/sweetners.htm)

List 5 specific troubling effects of Aspartame mentioned by Ms. Markle:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# Deconstructing Web Pages

What are you thinking about Aspartame right now?



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Though the statements by Ms. Markle are passionate, further Web research is needed before accepting them as fact...

Let's ask some questions...

## Who?



Who is Nancy Markle and who sponsored or attended the "World Environmental Conference on Aspartame?"

Is information about the author and conference clearly stated or easy to access?

**No contact or background information about the author or the conference she attended appears on this Web page. However, a web search can be used to dig a little deeper.**



Using the search engine Google, **search** for the name "Nancy Markle."

**Visit** several of the resulting sites.

**List** several key points of information you discovered about Nancy Markle:

- ✓ 

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- ✓ 

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- ✓ 

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- ✓ 

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# Deconstructing Web Pages

## Where?



*Where is this Web page located? What's the nature of the site? Is it a personal home page?*

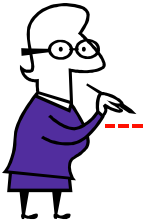
*Is it part of a medical site?*

*The article talks about the link between Aspartame and Multiple Sclerosis, so is it part of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation's Web site?*

**Where is this Web page located? The original page where we found this information about Aspartame was at <http://www.rense.com/health/sweetners.htm>**



Pare this URL down to its base: <http://www.rense.com> to learn more about the nature of the Web site hosting this information.



**What did you discover?**

✓

✓

## Why?



*Why would I use this site as a credible source of information?*

*Can I verify the information I've found?*

*The question that remains to be asked, is WHY would we think this site is a credible source of information?*

**In researching this topic, we've learned a number of things:**

- First, there are individuals and organizations that believe Aspartame poses a health risk
- Second, this belief is not shared by the medical profession at large and, claims about the risks associated with Aspartame have not been clinically proven.

# Deconstructing Web Pages

*Remember that your project was to research a science project on the artificial sweetener, Aspartame.*



**It's safe to assume that the individuals who believe that Aspartame is dangerous are sincere.**

**It would also be accurate to use this Web site as an example of one side of the Aspartame debate.**

**Look through this packet again. Summarize the main reasons this web site might not be the 'best' source of information on the topic.**

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