For each of the 5 citations in the References below:

1. Determine what type of source it is:
2. Primary
3. Secondary
4. Tertiary
5. Do some background research on at least some of the following (especially the first):
6. the journal, publisher or website
7. the author
8. the editor
9. Discuss your results
10. Estimate the reliability of the source. You may use the following 5-point scale:
11. 5 = very reliable
12. 4 = reliable
13. 3 = borderline
14. 2 = unreliable
15. 1 = very unreliable

Submit, on Blackboard as a group, your five estimates, including a one-paragraph justification for each estimate. Be prepared to discuss with the class, time permitting.

**References**

1. J.M. Mercola (2011). “Aspartame - By Far the Most Dangerous Substance Added to Most Foods Today”. Mercola.com. <https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2011/11/06/>

Aspartame-most-dangerous-substance-added-to-food.aspx (**Khai Phan**)

1. B.A. Magnuson, et al. (2007). “Aspartame: a safety evaluation based on current use levels, regulations, and toxicological and epidemiological studies”. Critical Reviews in Toxicology 37 (8): 629–727. (**Kateryna Vaizer**)
2. D.I. Radin, R.D. Nelson (1989). “Evidence for consciousness-related anomalies in random physical systems”. Foundations of Physics. 19: 1499–1514. (**Tien Phat Vu**)
3. A. Samsel, S. Seneff (2013). “Glyphosate's Suppression of Cytochrome P450 Enzymes and Amino Acid Biosynthesis by the Gut Microbiome: Pathways to Modern Diseases”. Entropy. 15 (12): 1416–1463.
4. E. van der Gaag, et al. (2020). “Influence of Dietary Advice Including Green Vegetables, Beef, and Whole Dairy Products on Recurrent Upper Respiratory Tract Infections in Children: A Randomized Controlled Trial”. Nutrients. 12 (1): 272; https://doi.org/10.3390/nu1201027

# J.M. Mercola

* 1. The source provided is a Primary Source. The author did the research on his/her self and sometimes used the reference fact/number from the FDA to support the content.
  2. Joseph Michael Mercola, or known as J.M. Mercola is an American osteopathic physician and known as the person who promotes alternative medicine. The content is written on his personal website created to raise human’s awareness about their health. There is no editor involved in the website as the author perform own research and results.
  3. The reason that we decided this is a Primary Source is because all of the content is from the author's own research and conclusion. The author’s website provides an animation video which is very easy to understand and normal readers can understand. However, the alternative website that talked about it seems to provide lots of educated information that required advanced user to understand it
  4. The source seems to be very reliable with the amount of educated information provided. Each information is stated with a specific year (some with day and month too). The information is provided in a high level of detail and sometimes hard to read/understand by a normal reader. Because of that, this is an article I think normal readers or researchers can use as a source for their work.

# B.A. Magnuson, et al.

1. This is a secondary source, which is a research article that was published in a peer-reviewed medical journal “Critical reviews in toxicology”. The purpose of this investigation was to provide a critical review on the scientific literature on a defined scientific topic (absorption and metabolism, the current consumption levels worldwide, the toxicology, and recent epidemiological studies on aspartame).
2. Background research.
   1. The journal: “Critical reviews in toxicology”. This is a peer-reviewed medical journal that publishes review articles on various aspects of toxicology. This journal is abstracted and indexed in various bibliographic databases, such as BIOSIS Previews, EMBiology, PASCAL, etc.
   2. The publisher: Taylor & Francis, an international company that publishes peer-reviewed books and journals.
   3. Authors: Bernadene A Magnuson, Ph.D, Magnuson Consulting (<http://bernamagnuson.com>) and others.
   4. References: 415 references were used in the article. These sources include articles that were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and industry standards. In addition, it is thoroughly referenced with citations.
3. Reliability: the article was created based on thorough research of scientific articles and their analysis. In addition, authors provide their informed opinion on the topic. This article was written for the scholarly audience and was published in a specialized medical journal. Taking into consideration the analysis above, we have come to a conclusion that this source is reliable.

# D.I. Radin, R.D. Nelson

* 1. Type of source: Secondary - this article reviews and analyzes three experimental investigations to prove the existence of some anomalies in the physics field. The authors did not perform the experiments directly, but applied on them reviewing techniques to get the final conclusion. The topic is not quite for common audiences, but for physic/science-relating researchers. The references are also well cited (around 50 - 60 sources). With all those points, this article should be a secondary source.
  2. Backgrounds:
     1. Author - Dean I. Radin: MS, PhD, is Chief Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Science (IONS) and Associated Distinguished Professor of Integral and Transpersonal Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) (<https://noetic.org/profile/dean-radin/>).
     2. Author - Roger D. Nelson: PhD, is Director of the Global Consciousness Project (GCP) (<https://noetic.org/profile/roger-nelson/>).
     3. Journal: Foundations of Physics - An International Journal Devoted to the Conceptual Bases and Fundamental Theories of Modern Physics (<https://www.springer.com/journal/10701/>).
  3. Reliability: both authors work in the field, and the journal in which the research was published is also a professional place for physics-related works. The references which are used in the research also seem to have a high level of academic. Therefore, this research is reliable.

# A. Samsel, S. Seneff

* 1. Type of source: this is a secondary source because the authors cited multiple researches and studies and provided analysis and conclusions from those sources.
  2. Background:
     1. the journal, publisher or website: *Entropy* (ISSN: 1099-430) is a peer-reviewed journal of entropy and information studies. This particular article was published in a special issue of *Entropy* called “Biosemiotic Entropy: Disorder, Disease, and Mortality”.
     2. the author: Anthony Samsel is an independent research scientist and consultant based in NH, USA. Stephanie Seneff is a computer scientist at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
     3. the editor: the editor for the special issue - and potentially this particular article - is Prof. Dr. John W. Oller, Jr., a guest editor from the department of Communicative Disorders, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.
  3. Reliability estimate: the peer-reviewed journal seems like a very reliable source for scholarly science essays. The authors and the editor all have advanced education. The article also has almost 300 references cited. This article can be considered as highly reliable. However, upon further research, it is discovered that there are controversies related to some opinions and inaccuracies in the article, an example being the cause of autism. An expression of concern is also added to the beginning of the source. As such, we would consider the reliability of the source to be borderline.

# E. van der Gaag, et al.

* 1. Type of source: this is a primary source as the authors conducted their own study and presented the results and conclusion.
  2. Backgrounds:
     1. the journal, publisher or website: *Nutrients* is a peer-reviewed journal on the topic of human nutrition. There are a number of nutrition organizations affiliated with this journal, such as The Asia Pacific Nutrigenomics Nutrigenetics Organisation.
     2. Authors: Ellen van der Gaag is a researcher focusing on health and nutrition, especially for growing children, based in the Netherlands. Ruben Brandsema, Rosan Nobbenhuis and Job van der Palen are her colleagues in Hospital Group Twente and University Twente. Thalia Hummel is from Medical Spectrum Twente, a hospital based in the Netherlands.
     3. The editor: N/A
  3. Reliability estimate: all authors work in health-related fields and the peer-reviewed journal is a reliable source for scholarly essays on the topic of nutrition. There are about 50 cited sources and the authors conducted their study thoroughly. We consider this source to be very reliable.