Dying to be Strong

**Reading Questions**

1. Reread the first full paragraph that begins on page 6. What can you infer about why doping is banned in professional sports? Why is doping illegal? (inference)
2. What evidence in the “Fits of Rage” section shows that steroid use in unhealthy? (text evidence)
3. Both “A Dangerous Quest” and “Muscle Mania” give reasons that some people take steroids. How are the reasons provided in the two sections different? (compare and contrast)
4. Reread the message posted by Maverickcrash. What does he imply about big muscles? Do you agree? Explain. (inference/analyzing)
5. What is the central idea of the “No Miracles” section? (central idea)

Critical Thinking Questions (Answer on a separate paper)

1. Do you think celebrities are responsible for body obsession among kids? Explain your answer, using details from the article to support your argument.
2. Based on what you learned in the article, what do you think could be done to reduce steroid use among young children?

**Directions: In the column on the left, list reasons young people use steroids. Next to each reason, explain why it is not, in fact, a good reason to take steroids—something beyond the negative side effects of steroids. (Think about what else you could say to a friend who told you he/she was thinking of using steroids for the reasons you listed.) The first one is filled out for you.**

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| Reasons Kids Use Steroids | What’s Wrong With That reason  |
| Their coach pressures them to bulk up | Sports should be fun and healthy, there’s something wrong with a coach who puts winning above health of players. How big muscles can get has to do with genetics, so if you are exercising and in good shape, your muscles are as big as the need to be. |
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