Guide to Writing an Informative Essay

1. Read and annotate (underline, make notes, etc.) the texts. You should mark any sentences that answer the question you are writing about or that would be good textual evidence.
2. Write an **introduction** that introduces the topic you are writing about and provides some context for the essay. This means that you introduce the topic a little—if you are writing about what makes a hero, then discuss this topic a bit. Why are heroes important? Perhaps provide a short story about a hero in action. End your introduction with your **thesis statement.** This provides the specific answer to the prompt you were given.
3. You will have a separate paragraph for each quality (2). You need to use transitions (in addition to, on the other hand, alternately, etc.) to move between paragraphs and within the paragraphs themselves. Look at the list I gave you for help.
4. The first sentence of each **body paragraph** must have a topic sentence that provides one of the answers to the prompt. (ex. In addition to harming your organs, another harmful side effect of steroids is what is commonly called ‘roid rage). **Each body paragraph needs to include the title of the article you are using for textual evidence; it wouldn’t hurt to include the author’s name, too.** (In the article, “Say No to Steroids,” the author explains that anabolic steroids can have a negative impact on a person’s liver, spleen, and pancreas. She says……..)
5. You will then begin to explain your answer and provide **textual evidence** to back up what you are claiming the article says. You need to use at least 1 pieces of textual evidence per body paragraph, but I recommend using 2 for a stronger essay.
6. After each piece of textual evidence, be sure to explain (in at least 2 sentences) what that textual evidence was saying. Why was it important? You have to be sure to include this **analysis**!!!!!
7. After you have written a body paragraph for each article, make sure you end with a strong conclusion that mentions one last time the qualities or whatever it is you have discussed. Leave a lasting impression with your reader about your topic!

\*\* Use the 8-sentence paragraph model I gave you\*\*