AECR: Breaking It Down

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to help you generate an assertion, locate text evidence, evaluate the strength of your evidence, and provide insightful commentary about your evidence.

Tips for Composing an Assertion (A)
- Deconstruct the prompt.
- Use/reword the prompt to structure your answer.
- Reread portions of the text to identify relevant information (which may be used later as text evidence).
- Make a reasonable inference based on relevant text evidence.
- Include a general explanation/rationale (if applicable).
- Check to be sure you have addressed all parts of the question.

Locating Text Evidence (E)
- How do I know my assertion is true?
- What in the text helps me to prove my inference (assertion)?

Evaluating Text Evidence (E)
- Does this information help me to make my point?
- Does this evidence explain how/why my assertion is true?
- Is this evidence simply a fact, or does it actually prove my assertion is true?
- Does this evidence *fully* support my assertion, or is it only somewhat related?
- Is this entire quote relevant to my assertion?
- Would another piece of evidence more clearly support my assertion?
- Does this evidence provide an example to illustrate my point?

Generating Commentary about Evidence (C)
- *How* does this evidence prove my assertion?
- How is this idea related to my assertion/thesis? What connections exist between them?
- Why is this evidence interesting? Why should anyone care?
- What does this information suggest?
- Why is this information important? Why does it matter?
- What are the consequences of thinking this way or looking at a problem this way?
- I've just described what something is like or how I see it, but *why* is it like that?
- I've just said that something happens, but *how* does it happen? How does it come to be the way it is?