The majority of this content is quoted or adapted from A Garden of English.

Part One: Breaking Down the Prompt

Tip: The directions are exactly the same each year, except for the passage given and what your task focus is.

- a. **BEFORE** you even read the passage, think "**COMMAND AND CONQUER**" to get your task (Command) and your focus (Conquer).
 - 1. <u>Command</u>: "analyze how Morgan uses literary elements and techniques to convey Aloma's complex responses to her changing environment"
 - 2. <u>Conquer</u>: This is what you look for while reading, that way you can focus on HOW the author uses "literary elements and techniques" to convey...
 - Look in the command and look for the "to+verb" ("to convey...).
 - Then figure out what you can't know without analyzing the passage, and write a question like this: "What are the narrator's (Aloma's) RESPONSES to the many changes she experienced when moving away from her large family?"
- b. You also have to consider the type of **COMPLEXITY** the character/setting/theme exhibits in the passage. Three common types:
 - 1. Layers:
 - Ex., A character may be kind, industrious, and jovial; or
 - o Oppressive, Violent, ominous, and foreboding;
 - o Hamlet: loving, intelligent, devious
 - 2. <u>Contradictory</u>: they might contradict themselves, even if it doesn't make sense
 - Seemingly innocent, yet maniacal
 - Outwardly comforting, yet slightly offsetting
 - o e.g., Hamlet: devoted but treacherous
 - 3. <u>Paradoxical:</u> a further type of contradiction, but it is full of truth on both sides of the contradiction
 - Loving, yet demanding justice at all costs
 - o Caring about one's self, yet being entirely self-sacrificial
 - e.g., Hamlet: Completely dedicated to bringing about justice for his father's death yet causes lots of death himself
- c. DURING and AFTER you read the passage, think about a simple way to answer your "CONQUER" question.

•	Example:	The narrator remember	s her feelings about moving	away from her extende	d family
	as being _	and	, but also	and	
	(Blanks m	ight be adjectives.)			

 The narrator remembers her summer being full of blissful and naïve, though sometimes potentially dangerous, adventures.

- After you answer the Conquer Question, relate it to 3-5 UNIVERSAL THEMES/IDEAS.
- Also notice complexities, as described above (just focus on one--don't try to write about all three types of complexities!).

Pre-Writing Template:

Exposition from the prompt	Command & Conquer	Conquer Answer
	Command:	Complex Answer from Text: (Answer after reading)
	Conquer Question:	Universal Ideas: (Answer after reading)

Sample Pre-Writing Template

(using a sample text, not the linked prompt I gave you)

Exposition from the prompt	Command & Conquer	Conquer Answer
Adult is remembering childhood Memories are from Fifth- grade summer	Command: "analyze how the author uses literary techniques to characterize the adult narrator's memories of her fifth-grade summer world."	Complex Answer from Text: (Answered after reading) Full of youthful adventures and innocent misunderstandings
	Conquer Question: WHAT is the narrator's characterization of her memories?	Universal Ideas: (Answered after reading) Maturation Comfort Nostalgia