SCIENCE REASONING TIPS FOR THE ACT

1. Ask yourself:
   A. What do I know?
   B. What do I need to know?
   C. What can I ignore? (Take out the verbal and visual garbage! Don't let scary words put you off. Many are actually defined and many are unnecessary. Their function is to scare you.)

2. Look for
   A. the expected.
   B. the UNexpected.
   C. the OBVIOUS. ("What's NOTABLE about?" means, "Find the big, red honky clown nose!")
   ***D. PATTERNS and TRENDS** (especially in charts and graphs)
   Think in terms of relationships. Note RATIOS and FRACTIONS. See part-to-part and part-to-whole

3. Visualize and audialize. If there's no picture, draw one. Hear and see changes!

4. Never calculate exactly when you can estimate. Answer choices are not that close. (The most important numbers you need to know are A LOT MORE, A LOT LESS, and ABOUT THE SAME

5. Paraphrase and translate.

6. Beware of absolutes. Choose qualified answers.

7. Isolate variables. Identify INDEPENDENT (CAUSE) and DEPENDENT (EFFECT) VARIABLES. Locate on axes. Note how they are measured, how they are related, and how they are changing.

8. Avoid sucker bait! Cover answers, supply, & match.

9. Watch for units and labels. They'll dangle an attractive answer with the WRONG units just to see if you are paying attention.

10. Always notice SCALE. They'll try to trick you into thinking two things similarly positioned on different graphs are about the same size when they are really very different because of huge variations in scale.

11. Know what DIRECT (POSITIVE) , INVERSE (NEGATIVE), and PROPORTIONAL relationships LOOK LIKE on a line graph. These questions always there and are always EASY if you know what you're looking at!

12. Remember that AVERAGES mask OUTLIERS. Look at the way experimental results are reported. If it's in AVERAGES, beware! There will ALWAYS be a question like this: "What is there about the report of the results that might make them difficult to interpret?"

13. Don't ASSUME. This what you'll make of us if you do: **ass/u/me!** For example, beware of the words like RISE, INCREASE, and GO UP. Suckers always assume a rise moves toward the top of the page. Smarties check to see which axis the variable in question is on. A RISE on the X AXIS moves toward the right side of the page, NOT the top!

14. Forget 1,2,3...Work in the order which works for you!