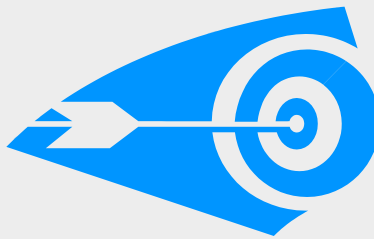


## Taking A-I-M: Encouraging Complete Analysis

Effective analysis requires much of a writer. Unlike the discourse you see on talk shows, where someone states an opinion based on nothing but his or her own OPINION, analysis requires EVIDENCE. However, moving from the text to a thesis requires more than merely providing a quote. It requires you to



### TAKE A-I-M!!

When you are analyzing a text, you need to make sure that your ideas are based on careful analysis of the text, rather than feelings or personal opinion. The following steps will encourage discipline in analysis:

#### 1. Annotate:

In other words, underline words/phrases that seem important. You may even find connections between underlined words/phrases and draw arrows/lines between them. Are literary devices in action? The point is to make sure that you choose some specific textual examples and then write brief commentary next to the text you select.

#### 2. Infer:

At this point, you need to comment directly on the words/phrases you have selected so that you can draw INFERENCES from your observations. Is there a discernable pattern? Is there something concrete you notice about the words/phrases? Do they contribute to the literal action, or are they figurative? In other words, in what ways do all of your observations function in the context of the piece as a whole?

#### 3. Main Idea:

Taking all of your annotations and inferences into account, you are then prepared to discuss a main idea in the text you are analyzing. If you are looking at the text as a whole you may wish to draft a thesis statement that addresses your text. Remember that your **thesis** must always address a **specific subject** and a **specific opinion** concerning that subject based on the evidence.