

## Citing Sources in Expository and Argumentative Essays using *MLA* Format

When including textual evidence, directly or indirectly, you need to provide a citation for it.

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Citing a single source: If your whole essay is only about one book/source, you only need to cite the page number:

Direct: **Eliezer is very religious at the beginning of *Night*, as is apparent when he asks himself, “Why did I pray? Strange question. Why did I live? Why did I breathe?” (4).**

Indirect: **It is clear how religious Eliezer is at the beginning of *Night* when he can’t separate his need to pray from his need to live or breathe (4).**

(Note: In the first citation above, if the punctuation mark after “breathe” were a period, it would not be included. Only question marks and exclamation points are included inside the quotation marks. Notice how there is no period after “friends” in the quote from Spiegelman below.)

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Citing multiple sources: When citing evidence from multiple sources, include the author’s last name along with the page number:

**Vladek knows how starvation can affect close bonds when he says, “Friends? Your friends? If you lock them together in a room with no food for a week then you could see what it is, friends” (Spiegelman 6). Eliezer witnesses this firsthand when a man kills his father over a crust of bread (Wiesel 101).**

If you are citing multiple sources by the same author, like *Maus* and *Maus II*, include the title and page number, either in the text of your sentence or parenthetically:

**At the end of *Maus I*, Vladek arrives at Auschwitz (157). He and the other Jews immediately see their humanity begin to be stripped away, when, as Vladek says, “They took from us our papers, our clothes, and our hair” (*Maus II* 25).**

If you are providing evidence from multiple sources, you will need a “Works Cited” section. Skip a line at the end of your essay, type “Works Cited,” skip another line, and include your short bibliography. Websites like [easybib.com](http://easybib.com) make it easy to create citations. Citations are listed alphabetically. Here are formats for different types of sources, with print (book) examples:

Print Resources: <Author’s last name, First name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher. Date of publication. Publication Medium. >

**Spiegelman, Art. *Maus I: A Survivor's Tale*. New York: Pantheon, 1986. Print.  
Wiesel, Elie, and Marion Wiesel. *Night*. New York, NY: Hill and Wang, a Division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Print.**

Online Databases: <Author’s Last Name, Author’s First Name. “Title of Article.” *Title of Original Reference work, Magazine or Newspaper*. Original Copyright Date. *Name of Database*. Publication Medium. Date of Visitation.>

Websites: <Webpage author’s name. (If you can’t find it, skip this) “Title of article or webpage.” *Title of Website (may be same as webpage)*. Date when the page or site was created or last updated. Publication Medium. Date of visitation. >

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**JUST ASK IF YOU NEED HELP WITH A DIGITAL CITATION OR ANY OF THIS!**