

Final Essay on Maus

3 Typed Pages Length Requirement, Double Spaced, MLA Format with Works Cited & Citations

For your test grade on *Maus*, I will give you four different questions that you can choose to answer in an essay about the rhetorical situation of *Maus*. You only need to answer one of these questions, but these questions will focus on the various aspects of the rhetorical situation.

In at least three typed pages, you must answer one of the following questions:

- **Speaker:** Art Spiegelman has a very unique way of presenting himself as the author in *Maus*. While he is the author of the story, he is also a character in it and makes reference writing it while the story is still being told. How does this affect the way readers may view Spiegelman as an author? Use examples from the book (with citations) to explain your answer.
- **Audience:** We've talked about how in the 1980s, illustrated stories were often associated with children's entertainment or superhero stories. *Maus*, by comparison, doesn't seem to be written for that audience. So, make an educated guess: who is the target audience for *Maus*, and how do you know? Use examples from the book (with citations) to explain your answer.
- **Exigence:** In our first unit, we discussed the various parts of the rhetorical situation and how rhetoric usually responds to a situation or issue that already exists in the world. So, make an educated guess: what is Art Spiegelman's exigence for writing *Maus*? What "problems" or "issues" does *Maus* respond to, and how do you know? Use examples from the book (with citations) to explain your answer.
- **Constraints:** In *Maus*, Art Spiegelman discusses the difficulties of using a comic book to tell his father's story, writing that "reality is too complex" in Part II, Chapter 1. In addition to the constraints of the comic book format (panels with cartoons and word bubbles), what other constraints did Spiegelman have to work within to create *Maus*? Use examples from the book (with citations) to explain your answer.

This should be a formally typed essay, with an introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion, and a thesis statement that directly answers the question you choose for this assignment. It should be formatted in MLA style, with 12-point font, 1" margins, an MLA style header, and Times New Roman font. It will be turned in on Archie, and will be due Monday November 13th at Midnight. The works cited page does not count towards the length requirement.

Grading Rubric

Strength of Main Idea / Thesis

_____ / 4
Your essay has a strong main idea that's directly stated in the introduction, and that thesis is supported throughout your entire essay.

Evidence from *Maus*

_____ / 4
You support your claims in your thesis with evidence from *Maus*. This evidence can either take the form of direct quotations, or paraphrasing with in-text citations (page numbers in parentheses). Additionally, it is clear how this evidence relates to your main idea.

Supporting Details _____ / **4**

You support your main ideas with additional elaboration and supporting details, and those details clearly communicate how your evidence and claims are related to one another. Additionally, your supporting details stay on topic and do not stray away from your thesis.

Organization & Flow of Ideas _____ / **4**

Your essay is overall well organized and easy to understand. It is written in paragraph form in complete sentences, and your writing employs a variety of sentence structures. If your organization does confuse the reader, it is brief and easily forgiven.

Grammar, Formatting & Citation _____ / **4**

If there are grammar, formatting or citation mistakes, they are minor and easily forgotten, as they do not impede the overall meaning of your essay.

Total Points _____ / **20**
_____ % / **100%**