



Figure 9. The piRNA system may drive silencing of some TEs through heterochromatin formation. (A) Depletion of HP1a (shown here), or of Piwi, results in overexpression of a subset of the TEs in the female germline. (B) This suggests that Piwi can promote transcriptional gene silencing, directly or indirectly, by targeting HP1a deposition at these TEs, presumably by a piRNA recognition event. (Adapted from Wang and Elgin 2011.)