What if I use the same author(s) several times in one paper?  
(When do I use “et al.”?)

One Author  
Each time you use the author’s words or ideas in your paper, cite using the author’s surname (also called: last name or family name).  
For example:  

Kang (2003) found that “there were a number of misconceptions among the public about what nurses do” (p.7).

Two Authors  
Each time you cite the source, use both the authors’ surnames. For example:  

Buresh and Gordon (2005) argue that “Nurses used to be seen and not heard. But times have changed” (p.14).

Three to Five Authors  
Step 1: The first time in the text  
The first time you cite the source in the paper, use all the authors’ surnames.  
For example, in the introduction to a paper, the student wrote:  
Brown, Dial, Sherwood, and Sloan (1988) suggested that “Nursing is one of the most sought after careers in Canada” (p.1).  

Step 2: The first time in each paragraph  
If you use this source again in subsequent paragraphs in the paper, use the first surname, et al., and the year of publication as the first citation of the source in each paragraph  
For instance, in the second paragraph of the paper, the student wrote:  
Brown et al. (1988) suggested that “…thousands of nurses will be retiring in the next ten years” (p. 2).  

Step 3: Multiple times in the same paragraph  
However, further citations of this source within the same paragraph are cited without the year.  
For example, the student used the same source again in the second paragraph:  
Brown et al. suggested that “University nursing programs will become increasingly important” (p. 3).  

Six or More Authors  
Each time cite only the first author’s surname and “et al.”. For example, Williams, Jones, Nazuti, Menendez, Katz, and Liu are represented from the first citation to the last citation as:  
Williams et al. (2006) claim that “nurses are the front line of the health care system” (p.4).  

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Other Important Tips for Citing Multiple Authors

- Do not alphabetize the authors’ surnames within the citation. They are in the order they are for a reason. Normally, authors are listed by rank or experience in their field.

- Although the rules for multiple authors are explained above using example quotes, the same rules would apply if you were paraphrasing.

- The ampersand (&) rule will apply. See the section: “When do I use an & symbol?”

- Do not list any of the authors’ initials. Save this information for the reference list.