

How and when to use Et al. with APA, MLA, and Chicago writing styles

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What is Et al.?

- We see it all the time when researching for graduate work
- Used by students (sometimes incorrectly) when turning in assignments
- Do we really know what it is and how to use it properly?

What is Et al. ?

- Et al. is short for the Latin term; “et alia” which means “and others”.
- It is used when citing in academia (MLA, APA, and Chicago is what will be discussed here) when the author is referring to a cited source that contains multiple authors.

Different citation rules for using Et al.

- The three most commonly used writing styles at the university (Interamerican and UPR) is APA, MLA, and Chicago (in that same order).
- Each style has a different way of using Et al.

How to use Et al. with APA- 7th edition

- APA- when a source has **2 authors** then you **list both**. When there are **three or more** authors, cite the first author followed by “et al.”
 - Examples for in text citations
 - 2 authors - Reece & Arvelo, 2021
 - 3 or more authors- Arvelo et al., 2014
(link to article) <https://openjournals.libs.uga.edu/jheoe/issue/view/96>
- Do not use et al. in the **references** section. You should list up to 20 authors. If it contains more than 20 authors list the first 19 and then an ellipsis (three dots (...)) and then the last author.
 - **Example:** Reece, J., Perez, A., Arvelo, A., Seda, H., Santiago, E., Soto, E., Rutherford, E., Carrero, M., James, P., Burns, J., Rivera, M., Crespo, M., Rivera, K., Moore, M., Vonstephen, J., Cardona, M., Lopez, T., Acevedo, A., ... Montgomery, N.

How to use Et al. with MLA

- Always use **et al.** for sources with three or more authors. Unlike APA this applies to BOTH in text citations and the works cited list (references list of APA).
 - Examples for in-text citations
 - 1 or 2 authors- Reece and Arvelo
 - 3 or more authors- Reece et al.
 - Examples for works cited
 - 2 authors- Reece, Johnathan, and Zaira Arvelo
 - 3 or more authors- Reece, Johnathan, et al. ...

How to use Et al. with Chicago

- For sources with one, two, or three authors, list all author names in your in-text citations (whether footnotes or author-date). For sources with four or more authors, use the first name followed by “et al.”
 - examples for footnotes:
 - One to three authors- Johnathan Reece and Zaira Arvelo,...
 - More than three authors- Melinda Carrero et al., ...
 - Examples for author and date
 - Reece and Arvelo 2021
 - Carrero et al. ...
- In the references, if a source has more than 10 authors, list the first seven followed by “et al.”:
 - Reece, Johnathan, Ana Perez, Heidy Seda, Carlos Santiago, Edwin Soto, Zaira Arvelo, Iris Morales, et at. ...

Thank you for watching

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