**Best Practice: Compiling Data into Columns**

Why?

* Allows for versatility of coding in data analysis

Table(s) vs. Columns

* Table(s)

Table

Description automatically generated

* + Data constrained to size of each cell
  + Inevitably tailored to the creator
  + Difficult to extract data for downstream analysis
* Columns

Table, Excel

Description automatically generated

* Can generate a column for each type of data
  + No constraints on amount of data to be included
  + Ability to manipulate sheet to parse out data of interest (e.g., filtering columns)
* Easy to extract data for downstream analysis (e.g., generate for loops to create appropriate tables; shown below)

Table

Description automatically generated