

## Adding Labels to Your Variables

If you are using SAS to produce listings and reports for others, you will want to make the output more readable. SAS formats and labels help you do this. They also help you to remember what each variable represents.

Many SAS procedures use variable labels to improve readability. You can create labels either in a [DATA](#) or [PROC step](#).



The basic form of LABEL statement :

```
LABEL var-name = "variable label";
```

```
LABEL  var-name1 = "variable1 label"  
       var-name2 = "variable2 label"  
       var-name3 = "variable3 label"  
;
```



## Temporary vs. Permanent labels

If you include your LABEL statement in the DATA step, the labels remain associated with the respective variables **permanently in the data**;

if you include your LABEL statement in a PROC step, the labels are used only for that procedure **temporarily**

