

# Variables

- **A general class or category within which specific instances vary.**
- **Include characteristics of people, situations, and behaviors.**
- **Must have two or more levels or values.**
- **In research, may be measured or manipulated.**
- **Operational definition - define a variable in terms of the method used to measure or manipulate the variable.**
- **Variables can be operationally defined in a variety of ways. Full**

**understanding requires studying  
variables using a variety of methods.**