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.