

## **Controls and Variables**

**Independent Variable:** Identify the independent variable in your experiment. The independent variable is the one thing that you changed in your experiment. If you are testing the growth of plants in different light levels, the independent variable is the amount of light each group of plants receives.

**Dependent Variable:** Identify the dependent variable in your experiment. The dependent variable is the quantity that you are measuring in your experiment. In the example above, the dependent variable might be the height of plants grown in different light levels.

**Controlled Variables:** State the variables that were held constant for all groups. In the above example, the experimenter would control the number of plants in each group, the type of plants in each group, the pot size, the amount of dirt, and the amount of water each plant received.