Household Chemicals

For most common household products, the product label contain lots of information. The information presented on the label can be qualitative (*e.g.*, a list of ingredients) or quantitative (*e.g.*, the percentage concentration of an ingredient). Note that product labels list the most abundant material first and the least abundant last.

1. Using the information on the label, make some observations regarding your product. You can use the table as a guide to help you organize your observations.

a) Record the name of the product. Describe the product.

b) Record the number of substances in the product.

c) What is the major ingredient?

d) Is there an "active ingredient" identified on the label? If so, what is it?

e) List any safety information or safety symbols that the labels provided. For example, was there a reference to daily use if the substance was a food? Were there any warnings, such as suggestions not to add the product to certain other materials?

f) Identify whether each observation is quantitative or qualitative.

2. Once you've made observations for 3 products, use the observations made by other groups to help you describe any patterns in the amount and type of information you noticed in certain groups of products: for example, were there similarities in the cleaning products?

3. Organize your observations in a table. Use Table 1 as a model if you like.

Table 1: Information taken from household product labels

Product Name:		
Observations: What can you observe about the product to help you describe it to someone	**Observations** **1.** **2.** **3.** **4.** **5.**	**Quantitative or Qualitative**
Major Ingredient		
Active Ingredient (if any)		
Safety Information or sketch of safety symbols		

4. As a group, try to decide on the criteria of an effective and functional data table. Record your ideas in Table 2. At this point there is no right or wrong way to do this. After the activity, we'll discuss the best way to build a table.

Table 2: Criteria for an effective and functional data table

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.