Variability in data can occur when the range of data can vary. For example, there are times when we can get a specific point or answer, and there are times where outside factors influence that.

Example: If I wanted to know how a child did on a test, I have two options. I can ask:

1. "How did your test go today?" This question yields variability because it is not specific. Outside factors such as sleepiness, lack of preparation or even attitude can affect the outcome.
2. "What grade did you get on your test today?" If the student knows what they got, it yields a more particular answer. There is less variability.