Input Data Feature	Goal	Use
multiple records	create a single observation	#n or / line pointer control in the INPUT statement with a DO loop.
a single record	create multiple	trailing @@ in the INPUT statement.
		trailing @ with multiple INPUT and OUTPUT statements.
variable-length data fields and records	read delimited data	list input with or without a format modifier in the INPUT statement and the TRUNCOVER, DLM=, DLMSTR=, or DSD options in the INFILE statement.
	read non-delimited data	$VARYING*w*. informat in the INPUT statement and the LENGTH= and TRUNCOVER options in the INFILE statement.
a file with varying record layouts		IF-THEN statements with multiple INPUT statements, using trailing @ or @@ as necessary.
hierarchical files		IF-THEN statements with multiple INPUT statements, using trailing @ as necessary.

more than one input file or to control the program flow at EOF		**EOF= or END= option in an INFILE statement.**
multiple INFILE and INPUT statements.		**FILEVAR=option in an INFILE statement.**
		FILENAME statement with concatenation, wildcard, or piping.
only part of each record		**LINESIZE=option in an INFILE statement.**
some but not all records in the file		**FIRSTOBS=and OBS= options in an INFILE statement; FIRSTOBS= and OBS= system options; #n line pointer control.**
instream data lines	**control the reading with special options**	**INFILE statement with DATALINES and appropriate options.**
starting at a particular column		**@ column pointer controls.**
leading blanks	**maintain them**	**$CHARw. informat in an INPUT statement.**

a delimiter other than blanks (with list input or modified list input with the colon modifier)		**DLM= or DLMSTR= option, DSD option, or both in an INFILE statement.**
the standard tab character		**DLM= or DLMSTR= option in an INFILE statement; or the EXPANDTABS option in an INFILE statement.**