How can I output a formatted ASCII file in Stata?

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To output a formatted ASCII file in Stata, you can use the "outsheet" command. This command allows you to specify the variables and format of your data before saving it as an ASCII file. By using the "outsheet" command, you can easily customize the output to meet your specific formatting needs. This feature is particularly useful when exporting data for use in other programs or for sharing with others. Simply follow the syntax and options provided in the Stata documentation to successfully output a formatted ASCII file in Stata.

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Say that you want to output the data from Stata to a formatted ASCII file, that is, a file where variables are in specific columns and may be on different lines. To accomplish this we will use Stata file command in a do-file. Obviously, you will have to change the file name, variable names and column locations to suit your own needs.

To use the do-file, just copy the commands and save them as outform.do in the same directory as your data file.

```
capture file close temp
use https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/stat/stata/notes/hsb2, clear
generate obs = _n
```

```
quietly count
local l = r(N)

file open temp using outtest.txt, write text replace

/* be sure to include all semi-colons */

#delimit ;

foreach i of numlist 1/`l' {;
file write temp
_col(2) %3.0f (obs)
_col(6) %3.0f (id)
_col(10) %1.0f (female)
_newline
_col(10) %4.2f (read)
_col(14) %3.0f (write)
_col(18) %3.0f (math)
_newline;
};

#delimit cr
file close temp
clear
```

**Now that you have the do-file, you can run it with the do command, and you can view
the results using the type command.**

do outformtype outtest.txt

1 70 0

57.00 52 41

2 121 1

68.00 59 53

3 86 0

44.00 33 54

4 141 0

63.00 44 47

5 172 0

47.00 52 57

6 113 0

44.00 52 51

7 50 0

50.00 59 42

8 11 0

34.00 46 45

9 84 0

63.00 57 54

10 48 0

57.00 55 52

11 75 0

60.00 46 51

12 60 0

57.00 65 51

13 95 0

73.00 60 71

14 104 0

54.00 63 57

15 38 0

45.00 57 50

16 115 0

42.00 49 43

17 76 0

47.00 52 51

18 195 0

57.00 57 60

19 114 0

68.00 65 62

20 85 0

55.00 39 57

(remainder of output deleted)

You may also wish to consider the programs outfix and

outfix2

which can do this for you more easily, but may not work so nicely with large

data files and also may require you to edit the resulting raw data file to

remove headers and/or footers. You can type search outfix and search outfix2 for more information (see How can I

use the search command to search for programs and get additional help?

for more information about using search).