

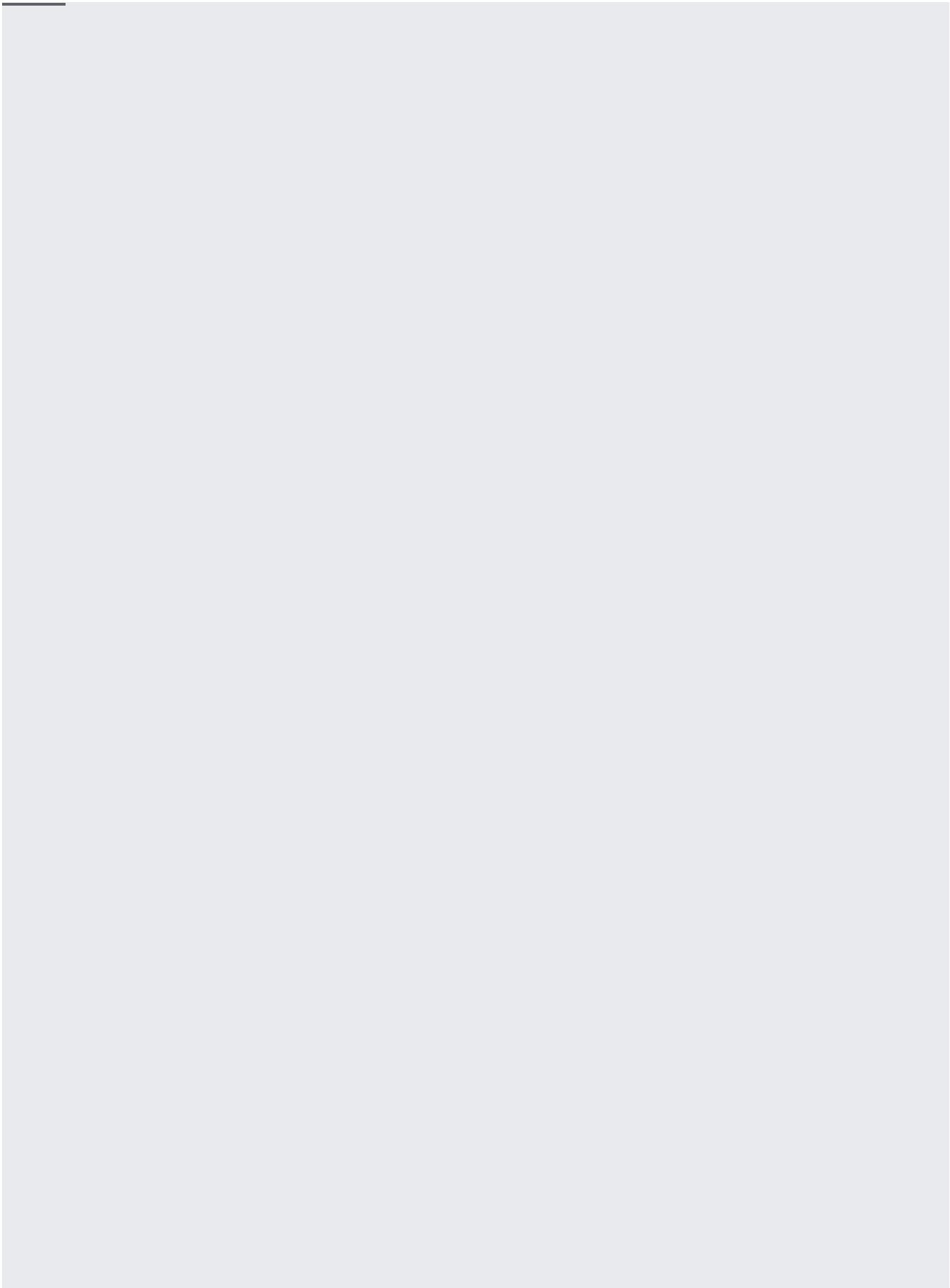
[MySQL](#) (/sql/docs/mysql/label-instance) | **PostgreSQL** | [SQL Server](#) (/sql/docs/sqlserver/label-instance)

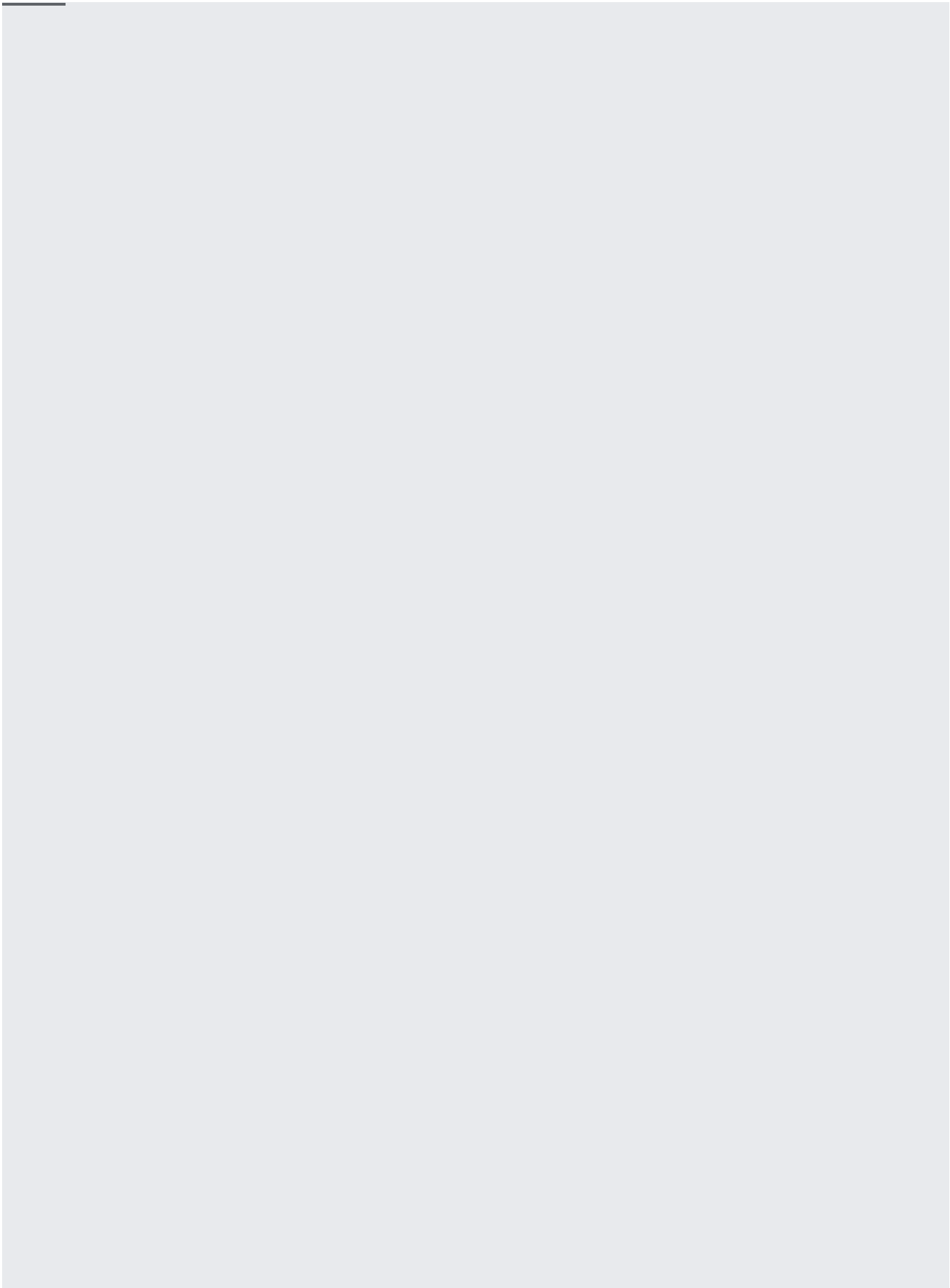
Labels are a lightweight way to group together instances that are related or associated with each other. For example, you could label your instances according to whether you are using them as test or production, or you could add your own billing code to an instance. You can use the labels to search for instances or to track instance charges.

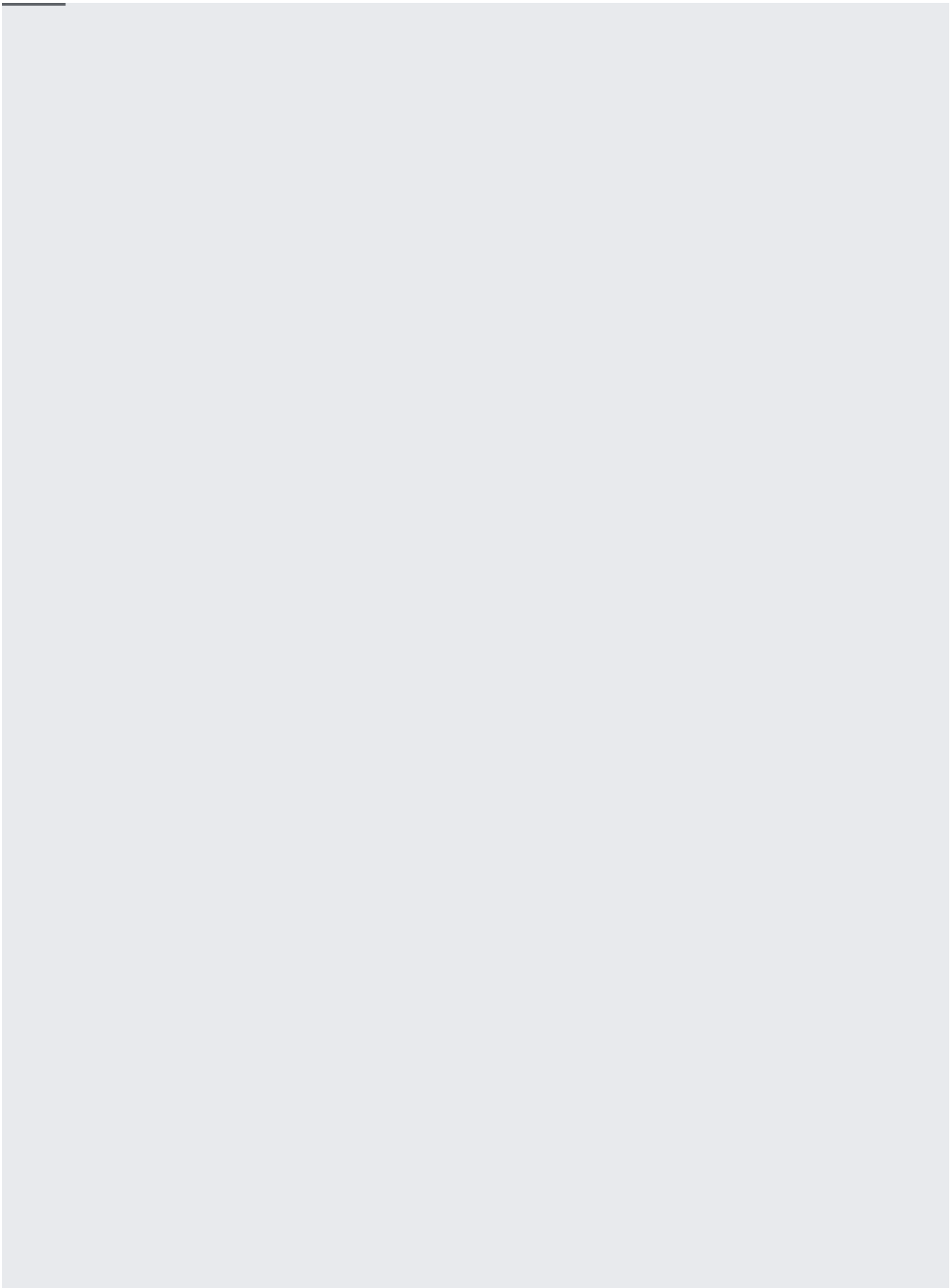
You always add labels as key/value pairs:

- You can assign up to 64 labels to each instance.
- Label keys and values must conform to the following restrictions:
  - Keys and values cannot be longer than 63 characters each.
  - Keys and values can only contain lowercase letters, numeric characters, underscores, and dashes. International characters are allowed.
  - Label keys must start with a lowercase letter.
  - Label keys cannot be empty.

When creating a new instance using the `gcloud` command-line tool or the API, you can apply labels to the instance.







You can filter your instance list results by labels using the `gccloud` tool or the API.

- Learn about [exporting billing data to BigQuery](/billing/docs/how-to/export-data-bigquery/) (/billing/docs/how-to/export-data-bigquery).
- Learn about [filtering using the gcloud tool](/sdk/gcloud/reference/topic/filters/) (/sdk/gcloud/reference/topic/filters).