

DEBRIEFING FORM

(SAMPLE -- Please model your debriefing form according to this script)

- I. Sometimes in research it is necessary not to tell the participants the hypothesis. We can't always tell people about the purpose of the research because
  - A. It might affect our results – if we tell people the purpose of the research or how we predict people will act, they may deliberately do whatever it is they think we want them to do just to help us out and give us the results that they think we want. Or, it is also possible that the opposite might occur. That is, if we tell people our predictions, they might deliberately act in the opposite direction to show us that we can't figure them out. Either way, we would not have a very good indication of how they would act in situation in everyday life.
    - i. Do you understand why sometimes we cannot reveal the full purpose of the research at the onset?
    - ii. Do you have any questions? Comments? Suggestions?
- II. Now I would like to tell you the purpose of this study.
  - A. What we are most interested in is...(identify research goals here).
    - i. Do you understand this purpose and the goals behind conducting this research?
  - B. Obviously, if we tell people outright what we are studying, it might affect their behavior. Thus, we had to conceal the real purpose of the research until now.
    - i. Do you understand now why I didn't tell you the real purpose of the research at the outset?
    - ii. Do you have any questions? Comments? Suggestions?
- III. There are some final things I need to talk to you about.
  - A. We have people participating in this study or similar studies currently and in the future. The success of this study requires that the people who participate have no idea in advance what the study is about. What this means is that I need you not to say anything about the study to anyone else.
  - B. You may wonder what difference it makes to tell a friend, roommate, boyfriend, or girlfriend because they will never be in the study. But they may say something to someone else who will be in the study. Or they may be in the study or a similar study down the road. I realize you may have an urge to tell people about what happened in this research. However, I am going to ask you to keep what happened and the purpose of the study secret.
  - C. If anybody asks you about the research, don't make a big mystery about the study. Just say that you were in such and such study and that you are not at liberty to discuss the nature of the research.
    - i. Do you have any questions? Comments? Suggestions?

I have read aloud and discussed all these points with the participant and allowed her/him to ask questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Researcher Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have had all the points on this form explained to me, and I had the opportunity to ask questions about the true purpose and research manipulations that took place in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Research participant,

Now that you have learned the true and full purpose of the current study and know about the actual manipulations that took place as part of this study, will wish to have your data to be included in this research project?

YES, I DO want my data to be included in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NO, I DO NOT want my data to be included in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date