*This sample is for researchers to use as a guide in developing their study materials. Instructions to the researchers are written* *in* ***[square brackets in bold italics]*** *and should be deleted. Instructions that are* *in* ***[square brackets, bold italics, and are blue]*** *need to be replaced with details specific to the study and changed to* black, un-bolded, un-italicized*, and removed from square brackets before uploading the material to the research ethics application.****Please also delete this instructional paragraph.***

**\*\*Please review the Guide to Creating an Information Letter and Consent Form for additional details\*\***

RESEARCHER’S SCRIPT FOR VERBALLY DEBRIEFING PARTICIPANTS INVOLVED IN A DECEPTION STUDY (IN-LAB), USED WITH A POST-STUDY DEBRIEFING INFORMATION/FEEDBACK LETTER

Study Title: *[insert study title]*

1. *Express appreciation to participant for taking part in the study.*

**“**Thank you for spending the time helping us with our research. We greatly appreciate your participation in this study.”

1. *Probe for suspicion.* ***[Optional]***

“Do you have any guesses about what the study is about? We would be interested in hearing any ideas you might have. Did anything seem strange or odd to you?”

1. *Explain what participants were originally told.*

“I would now like to tell you a bit more about the study. The debriefing letter that I gave you describes the details of the study. You can keep this copy. I will go over the main points with you now. When you began the study, you were told the purpose of this study was to examine decision making in various situations. However, we ***[left out a few details*** ***or provided you with information that slightly misrepresented the real purpose of the study]***. What this means is the study was different than what we explained in the beginning. Some studies in psychology involve deception – that is, participants are led to believe the study is about one thing when it is actually about something else. This is one of those studies. Do you have any questions?”

1. *Outline the full purpose/objectives of the study and explain what the deceptions were and purpose of the tasks.*

Provide participants with an explanation of and information on the:

a) full purpose/objective(s) of the study,

b) background information on the area of research being conducted,

c) deceptive aspects of the study, and

d) measures, study tasks, and various conditions.

Note: This section in the verbal debriefing script should be consistent with the debriefing letter provided to participants.

1. *Explain why deception was used in the study.*

“The reason that we needed to use deception in this study was because we needed participants’ behaviour and attitudes to be as natural as possible. Thus, we could not give participants complete information before their involvement in the study because it may have influenced participants’ behaviour in a way that would make investigations of the research question invalid. If participants knew the objectives of the study beforehand their behaviour and attitudes may have been influenced by this knowledge.”

1. *Summarize the full purpose of the study and which aspects involved deception (e.g., use of confederates, use of false information, etc.)*

“I would just like to re-iterate a few things:

1. The purpose of this study was to examine ***[insert full explanation of study purpose and objectives]***.
2. The articles and essay used in this study were written solely for the purpose of this study by the researchers and were not actually published anywhere.
3. The other participant in the study was a confederate instructed by us to act as he/she did.
4. The confederate did not actually receive any of the money he/she took.”
5. *Express regret for deceiving participants.*

“We apologize for omitting details and for providing you with fictional information about the purpose of and tasks in our study. We hope that you understand the need for use of deception now that the purpose of the study has been more fully explained to you. Do you have any questions about deception and why it was used in this study?”

1. *Explain not all psychology studies involve deception.*

“I would like to assure you that most Psychology research does not involve the use of deception.”

1. *Explain who to contact if questions or concerns arise about participation in the study.*

“Do you have any questions or concerns about the use of deception in this study? Would you like to speak with the one of the study investigators/faculty supervisors about your concerns or questions? After you leave, if you have questions, comments, or concerns about the study or any feelings of discomfort, please contact the study researchers or the Office of Research Ethics. Contact information is on the debriefing letter I gave you.”

1. *Explain reasons for not discussing study details with others and why.*

“This study involves some aspects that you were not told about before starting therefore it is very important that you not discuss your experiences with any other students who potentially could be in this study until after the end of the term. If people come into the study knowing about our specific predictions, as you can imagine, it could influence their results, and the data we collect would not be useable. Also, since you will be given a copy of this feedback letter to take home with you, please do not make this available to other students.”

1. *Reiterate details from the information letter as to how the information collected will be confidentially retained and stored.*

“Even though this study involved deception, the information given to you about confidentiality, data storage, and security still applies. All data collected is confidential and securely stored. No one other than the researchers have access to the data. These details are outlined in the debriefing letter.”

1. *Explain why another consent form needs to be signed.*

“Because some elements of the study were different from what was originally explained we have another consent form for you to read and sign if you are willing to allow us to use the information that you have provided. This form is a record that the purpose of the study has been explained to you, and that you are willing to allow your information to be included in the study. Will you allow us to use the information you provided?” ***[Researcher gives participant post-debriefing consent form to read and sign. Participant returns signed consent form to the researcher.]***

1. *Conclude with an expression of appreciation.*

“We really appreciate your participation, and hope that this has been an interesting experience for you.”

***[Please check that all relevant study details are included, changes are made to the document to accurately describe the study and procedures, and delete the instructional text printed in bold italics before submitting to the Office of Research Ethics for review.]***