*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\*\***

**The following Post-Study Information Page gives additional details about the study which involved deception (or omission of information). Following the Information Page is a Post-Study Consent Form for the researchers to use the information/data you provided, through the online survey, in their research.**

**Post-Study Information Page**

**Project Title: *[insert title]***

**Student Investigator: *[insert name, University of Waterloo email address]***

**Faculty Supervisor: *[insert name, department name, 519-888-4567 ext. [insert ext. number], University of Waterloo email address]***

We appreciate your participation in our study and thank you for spending the time helping us with our research. The purpose of this post-study information page is to provide additional details about the study you just participated in.

You were originally told that this study was designed to investigate the effectiveness of communication through a variety of media. While we were indeed interested in studying interpersonal communication, the study objectives were more involved from what we originally explained to you.

In this study, we are interested in how a person’s perceptions of their partner’s responsiveness affect the person’s expressivity. In other words, we wanted to see whether perceiving a partner as responsive – as understanding, caring, and validating – would lead people to express more emotion and reveal more about themselves to their partner. This study is important because past research has suggested that expressing oneself is central to the achievement of intimacy in relationships with others (Laurenceau, Barrett, & Pietromonaco, 1998). Examining factors such as partner responsiveness that might encourage people to be more expressive with relationship partners may provide insight into how to help people to be more expressive, with the hopes of strengthening their relationships with others.

You were also told that you had been matched with a partner, whom you would meet during the in-lab portion of the study. Participants were not matched with a partner in the study and there is no in-lab portion to this study. It was necessary to have participants think that they had a partner so that we could accurately measure how expressive participants were willing to be with a partner, depending on whether they learned that their partner was a responsive person or not.

***[If using criteria or randomization to place participants in certain groups or conditions include something like***: “Some people in this study were ***[selected or randomized]*** because they had experienced ***[insert description of condition],*** and others were ***[selected*** **or randomized]** because they had not experienced any of these situations. You were in the ***[insert criteria]*** condition. This means you were ***[insert explanation of condition].]***

The information you were given about your partner was created by the researchers for the purposes of this study, and the information you shared about yourself was not seen by anyone except members of the research team. You were asked to select topics from a list prepared by the researchers for a supposed discussion. The purpose of this task was to see which topics you would feel comfortable discussing and how deeply you would be willing to discuss them with the partner. As you now know, there was no actual discussion, and we apologize if you experienced disappointment as a result. You were asked to write about one positive and one negative experience you’ve had since being at university, which we explained was to help us examine how practice affects people’s comprehension of written communication. We asked participants to complete this second written task as another measure of expressivity. We expected that participants who were given information indicating that their partner was a caring and understanding person would be willing to express more to their partner than participants who were not given any information about how caring and understanding their partner was.

The reason we needed to use deception in this study was because we needed participants’ behaviour and attitudes to be as natural as possible. To summarize:

1. The purpose of this study was to examine ***[insert full explanation of study purpose and objectives]***.
2. You were not matched with a partner and there will be no in-lab portion to the study.
3. Information provided about the partner was created by the researchers for the purpose of the study.
4. The purpose of the selected topics was to see which topics you would feel comfortable discussing and how deeply you would be willing to discuss them and not for a supposed discussion.
5. The written, positive, and negative experiences task is a measure of expressivity and will not be used to examine how practice affects comprehension of written communication.
6. Participants will receive their full 1.0 participation credit.

We apologize again for not providing you with complete and accurate information about the purpose, objectives, and procedures for this study, but we hope you understand why this was necessary.

Since this study involves some aspects that you were not told about before starting, it is very important that you not discuss your experiences with any other students who potentially could be in this study, until 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 usable. Also, if you print off a copy of this post-study information page, please do not make it available to other students.

Your identity will be confidential. All the data will be summarized, and no individual could be identified from these summarized results. The data will be stored with all identifying or potentially identifying information removed. Electronic data will be stored for ***[insert time period]***. You can request your data be removed from the study up until ***[insert date]*** as it is not possible to withdraw your data once papers and publications have been submitted to publishers.

Since some elements of the study are different from what was originally explained, there is another consent form for you to read and complete, if you are willing to allow us to use the information you have provided. This consent is also a record that the full purpose of the study was explained to you.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board (REB ***[####] [Replace#### with the file number that is listed at the top of your ethics application]***). If you have questions for the Board, contact the Office of Research Ethics, toll-free at 1-833-643-2379 (Canada and USA), 1-519-888-4440, or [reb@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:reb@uwaterloo.ca).

For all other questions contact ***[insert researcher name and contact information].***

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

( ) YES ( ) NO I read the Post-Study Information page.

(Note to researcher: a YES is not required to proceed to the consent form)

**POST-DEBRIEFING CONSENT FORM**

( ) YES ( ) NO I have questions about the use of deception in this study and would like to be contacted by one of the researchers to discuss these.

If yes, please enter your name and phone number and/or email in the textbox below.

(text box)

*[****Note to researcher: If using Mechanical Turk or a similar service revise above to:  "If yes, contact******[insert researcher name]*** *at* ***[insert University of Waterloo email and phone]****”****.]***

( ) YES ( ) NO I give my permission for the researchers to use my data and/or the information I provided through the online survey for this study.

***[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.]***