Debriefing Template

Instructions: Debriefing statement should be provided when participants are deceived regarding the true purpose of their participation in a study in order to prevent participant bias. (See Human Research Protections Program Standards and Practices section XV. L. for further information). A debriefing statement should be presenting in writing and orally (when possible). Note: This template should not be used in instances where the study does not involve the use of deception and the investigator is only providing additional information to participants regarding their participation.

All text in red is instructional and should be deleted from the final document.

PI Name: [provide PI name]

Study Title: [Provide study title]

Thank you for participating in this study. This study involved deception. This means that we did not provide you with the complete description of the purpose of the study and some of the instruments used had a different purpose than how we described them. In reality, the purpose of the study was [describe the purpose as outlined in the informed consent form]. Moreover, the tasks were described as [Describe task, e.g., IQ test] was in reality a [describe real task, random task]. The real purpose of the study was to [describe real purpose]. It was necessary for us to use deception in this study as knowing the real purpose would have affected the results.

 Now that you know the true purpose of the study as well as the task that we used, if you would like to withdraw from participating in the study please let us know and we will remove all of your data collected for the study. [Alternately, if participants are not debriefed in person, the following language should be used please contact me (or my Faculty Advisor) at….].

If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research participant, please contact the IRB at 619-594-6622 or irb@mail.sdsu.edu.

Again, thank you for your participation in this research study.