**Debrief and Reconsent**

**Note to Researcher:**

1. Please adapt this template to match the needs of **your** specific study.
2. Before submitting this form, [delete all researcher instructions and sample wording in blue font that you aren’t using].
3. Remember to save this document in pdf format before uploading to your application in MacREM.

If you have questions about whether certain text should be included in your Debriefing Letter, please contact [mreb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mreb@mcmaster.ca).

**[Study Title]**

**Principal Investigator Student Investigator:** [If applicable]

**[or Faculty Supervisor if applicable]:**

Dr. Name

Department ofName Department of

McMaster University McMaster University

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

**(905) 525-9140 ext. XXXXX (905) 525-9140 ext. XXXXX**

E-mail: (McMaster Address) E-mail: (McMaster Address)

**Co-Investigator**: [if applicable] **Co-Investigator**: [if applicable]

[Include full contact information as above] [Include full contact information as above]

**Why you are receiving this form:**

You are receiving this form because this study included deception or partial disclosure. In research, it is sometimes necessary to not tell participants the true purpose of the study, or to tell them that a task measures one thing, when instead it measures something different. Sometimes researchers give false or incomplete information to avoid biasing the participants’ actions. These forms of deception are needed in some studies to be sure the researchers measure someone’s true behaviour, instead of what they think the researcher is wanting to observe. This letter will explain the deception or partial disclosure you experienced in this study and why it was necessary.

**What the study is really about:**

[Explain here the true purpose of the study. Be sure to make it clear how the study could not be done through any other means that didn’t involve deception or partial disclosure.]

**What we kept from you:**

[Outline any information kept from the participant or changed. If questions/activities were added simply to act as a distraction, explain this here. Particularly important to outline any manipulations, such as if you manipulated the task/feedback to ensure a participant succeeded or failed a task. If the deception may have had a negative impact on the participant (e.g. failing a task), be sure to reiterate that their poor performance/negative feelings are a result of the researcher’s manipulation and not their own skill. If you provided deceptive materials (such as fake journal articles) be sure to clearly state that the items were not real.]

**Potential Impact of Deception/Partial Disclosure**

One of the risks of keeping information from participants is that we may upset or offend some participants. We tried to keep the deception to a minimum, and hope that you will understand the necessity of it. Below is a reconsent section, and you can choose to provide your consent, or not, for us to keep the data based on the new information about the study you have just learned. If you do not reconsent, then your data will not be included in the results of this study. There are no consequences to you choosing not to provide reconsent.

**Confidentiality**

The success of this study depends on the participants having no idea of the true purpose of this study in advance, so we are asking you to not share this debriefing information with anyone else.

**Questions about the Study:** If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact me at:

|  |
| --- |
| [Insert researcher’s email address,  telephone number or  Mailing address, as appropriate]. |

**[Note to Researcher: The following statement is required.]**

The McMaster Research Ethics Board provided ethics clearance on the basis that the proposed deception or partial disclosure procedures followed the requirements of the Canadian research ethics guidelines (TCPS2 Art 3.7a-b), including providing a reconsent process if at all possible. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Office

Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142

E-mail: [ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ethicsoffice@mcmaster.ca)

Pleas quote Project # **[Researchers, please add project # - found at the top of your application]**

**RECONSENT**

[**Note to Researcher:** Keep the Debrief and this reconsent portion together as one document. When obtaining written consent, make certain that you bring two copies: one for your records and one for the participant to keep.]

* I have read the information presented in this debrief letter about how the study differed from what I was told in the Letter of Information
* I have had the opportunity to ask questions about these differences and I have been satisfied with the responses
* I have been given a copy of this form [If reconsenting is done online, ensure participants have a way to save/receive the information, and adjust this statement accordingly]
* I agree to allow the researcher to keep and use my data

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Participant (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Note to Researcher:**

1. **Adapt the Reconsent** for your method of data collection. If you are using an **Oral Consent Log**, be sure to add a column for the Reconsent process. If an online study, then the signature section would be replaced by an option to select consent and submit data or withdraw from the study (note that if selecting withdraw there should still be a way for participants to receive the incentive)