

DEBRIEFING GUIDELINES (Revised 1/03)

The following should be included in your scripted comments to your participants following their participation. Please type out a scripted debriefing and submit with your Ethics Form.

Information about the Study

Describe the purpose of the study and relate it to their experiences in the study. If participants were asked to do ratings or take personality tests or tests of ability, indicate how the ratings, tests, etc., were related to your research questions.

Deception (optional)

If deception was used, acknowledge to the participants that some information you told them was not true in order that the situation would be involving to them without directing their attention to the study hypothesis. In this way, it was possible to get their most spontaneous and natural responses. Establish that they understand why deception was used.

References

Offer to provide references in APA citation format about the study topic to inform the participants.

Assurance of Privacy

Assure participants that their responses will be confidential and that their responses will only be identified by a participant number in the data set along with other participants' numbers.

Contact Information

Offer to provide contact information about the investigators and your professor.

Thanks and Credit

Thank the participants. Remember, they provide a valuable service to investigators.

DEBRIEFING SCRIPT (Example)

Information about the Study

The object of this study is to understand better how individuals' cultural backgrounds affect the politeness they use when they make requests of particular people.

A focus of this study is the norms of politeness people exhibit in everyday conversations. The first survey asked you to write exactly how they would make verbal requests of particular people. We asked about different targets of the requests by their age (older, same age), sex, and family status (related to participant or not). You were also asked to write about four requests (for a car ride, for advice, for a dollar, and for the time of day).

The second survey you answered was about individualism-collectivism. Individualism is a measure that assesses how much people judge themselves by their own accomplishments and how achievement and competition-oriented they are. Collectivism is a measure that assesses how much people judge themselves by the groups such as families, communities, occupational and ethnic groups to which they belong and how group harmony-oriented they are. The third survey you answered was a scale about cultures to assess how accustomed you are to United States culture and Mexican culture. We will do statistical tests on all participants' responses to see how politeness in conversations, individualism-collectivism, and cultural preferences are related to each other. Do you have any questions? I can give you further information about this area of psychological research if you wish.

Possible References

Holtgraves, T. & Yang, J-N. (1990). Politeness as universal: Cross-cultural perceptions of request strategies and inferences based on their use. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 59, 719-729.

Holtgraves, T. & Yang, J-N. (1992). Interpersonal underpinnings of request strategies: General principles and differences due to culture and gender. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 62, 246-256.

Deception (If deception was not used, this section would not be used).

We told you some misleading information during the study. We do not use deception frivolously in psychological studies. We used deception so that the situation would be involving to you without directing your attention to the study hypothesis. This deception was necessary to gain a true picture of how people behave in such situations and that deception was not undertaken lightly.

It is very important that you keep this information confidential. As you probably realize, if you knew the information I just told you before you participated, it would have greatly affected your behavior. Other participants would also be affected if they knew the true purpose, so please keep this confidential.

Assurance of Privacy

We are seeking general principles of behavior and are not evaluating you personally in any way. Your responses will be confidential and your responses will only be identified by a participant number in the data set along with other participants' numbers.

Contact Information

Please contact me if you have questions or problems after the study (give your contact info). You may also contact my professor for this course, Dr. Susan Davis in SJ 327, 937.229.1345.

Thank you very much for your participation.