DECEPTION & DEBRIEFING

Description

Deception is the intentional misleading of subjects or the withholding of full information about the nature of a research experiment or procedure. Misleading or omitted information might include the purpose of the research, the role of the researcher, or what procedures in the study are actually experimental.

Deception increases ethical concerns, because it affects the ability of the participant to give informed consent. However, deception is arguably necessary for certain types of behavioral research. Because humans act differently depending on circumstances, full knowledge by the subject might bias the results.

Federal regulations permit but establish limitations on the use of deception. An investigator must provide scientific and ethical justification for deceptive procedures for the IRB review and approval. The missing information should not increase the risks of the study, and subjects must be fully debriefed. Subjects must have the opportunity to ask questions about the new information and be given the opportunity to withdraw from the study and have their data removed. Deception may not be utilized to obtain enrollments.

Many professional organizations, such as the American Psychological Association, consider deception undesirable except in the rarest of cases. Strong justification must be provided for procedures calling for either concealment or deception, and participants must be fully informed at the conclusion of the activities, preferably with an opportunity to withdraw their data if they are bothered by the concealment or deception.

APA Code of Ethics

Deception in Research

(a) Psychologists do not conduct a study involving deception unless they have determined that the use of deceptive techniques is justified by the study's significant prospective scientific, educational, or applied value and that effective non-deceptive alternative procedures are not feasible.
(b) Psychologists do not deceive prospective participants about research that is reasonably expected to cause physical pain or severe emotional distress.
(c) Psychologists explain any deception that is an integral feature of the design and conduct of an experiment to participants as early as is feasible, preferably at the conclusion of their participation, but no later than at the conclusion of the data collection, and permit participants to withdraw their data.

Debriefing

(a) Psychologists provide a prompt opportunity for participants to obtain appropriate information about the nature, results, and conclusions of the research, and they take reasonable steps to correct any misconceptions that participants may have of which the psychologists are aware.
(b) If scientific or humane values justify delaying or withholding this information, psychologists take reasonable measures to reduce the risk of harm.
(c) When psychologists become aware that research procedures have harmed a participant, they take reasonable steps to minimize the harm.

In cases where deception is used in research, the IRB may require that the following guidelines be applied:

1. The participant is honestly and fully informed about the requirements of their participation before they participate in the study. This is documented by using the traditional Consent Form.
2. As soon as possible after the deception, the participant is fully informed about the deception, the exact nature of the deception, and the reason for the deception using an IRB-approved debriefing form. At that time, the participant is given the opportunity to refuse to allow their data to be used in the research. For example, after full disclosure, the participant could be provided with a debriefing form with the following checkboxes:

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri

- ☐ You may not use the data collected from me. Please destroy all data collected from me immediately.
- ☐ I give permission to have my data used in this research project.

All researchers conducting studies involving deception are required to apply for approval of an **Alteration of Consent,** which allows the investigator to alter or remove one or more of the elements (e.g. purpose of research) of informed consent.

Points to Address

New Study Application: ~~**Protocol Summary:**~~	1.~~ **Section 3.4**~~**Study Information page**~~**, How will CONSENT be obtained?**: a) For the question "How will consent be obtained"~~Please select~~ select both "Informed Consent Process" **and** "Waiver or Alteration of Informed ~~d~~ Consent~~.~~". ERICA will automatically prompt you to complete the **Alteration of Consent page** ~~after you~~ as you~~click " C~~continue~~"~~ through the Application. b) When describing the study procedures, clearly state deception will be used and state why deception is necessary to conduct the study. 2**. Request for Waiver or Alteration of Consent:** Complete this additional form in ERICA when prompted. State the purpose of the waiver and request an "Alteration of Informed Consent." When asked whether deception will be used, select "yes" and provide the rationale for the use of deception and describe the debriefing procedures. Complete the rest of the form as directed. ~~1. **Study Procedures, Deception**: Please include a sub-section in your description of the study procedures addressing why deception is necessary to conduct the study.~~ ~~2. **Study Procedures, Deception**: Please describe the procedures for debriefing participants after the study procedures are completed.~~ 3. ~~**Study Procedures, Deception**~~**Risks and Benefits page**: Please address the issue of risk related to the use of deception in the research. Please include a description of why you believe participants will be exposed to no more than minimal risk related to the use of deception. Please also state whether or not you believe the withheld information will affect the participant's decision to participate in the research.
Documents and Attachments:	1. **Consent Document, Debriefing Form**: In addition to the Consent Document, please attach a debriefing form for review.

References & Links

APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct	*http://www.apa.org/ethics/code2002.html#8_07*

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri
Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri
Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.3"
Formatted: Font: Bold
Formatted: Font: Bold
Formatted: Font color: Auto
Formatted: Font color: Auto
Formatted: Font color: Auto
Formatted: Font color: Auto
Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.5"
Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri
Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri
Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri
Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri
Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri