

## **SUBJECT DEBRIEFING FORM**

### **(Description of Deception Used)**

- I. Why researchers use deception
  - A. Sometimes in research it is necessary to use deception. This allows researchers to collect data that may be tainted if the participant knew the true aim of the experiment. Deception protects an experiment from participant bias. If we disclose to participants our hypothesis, for example, participants may behave a certain way to give us the results they believe we want. They may also do the opposite. Both are forms of participatory bias that can be avoided if the participant is unaware of the true goal of the research.
- II. The deception used in today's experiment
  - A. The inventory that assessed your IQ was fake. The test was not and will not be scored. Your responses will be saved.
  - B. You were not assigned a counterpart for the experiment. Your answer to the binary selection will not be paired with another participant in order to determine your monetary reward for participation. Your response on the binary choice (A or B) will be saved as this was the data we truly wanted to collect.
  - C. You will be given \$8 at the conclusion of the experiment for your voluntary participation regardless of your answer to any of the evaluations in the experiment.
  - D. The real name of the study is: Cooperation and Perceived Intelligence: An Exploration of Perception's Effects on Cooperation.
  - E. The person administering today's experiment recorded how long it took you to make a selection on the binary choice inventory (A or B). This time will be saved as it is the data we truly wanted to collect.
- III. The hypothesis of the study
  - A. Our hypothesis is that people who believe their experimental counterpart to be less intelligent than they are will be more likely to choose option B, wherein they attempt to take advantage of their partner.
  - B. The aim of today's study was to examine the relationship between perceived intelligence and cooperation. In the control condition, participants are told that their experimental counterparts are as intelligent as they are. In the experimental condition, participants were told that their experimental counterparts are less intelligent than they are. Both groups took the fake IQ test, were given a binary selection, and were timed when making their choice.
- IV. Why we used deception
  - A. The deception used in today's study was integral to the design of the study itself. In order for you to behave as authentically as possible, we needed you to believe that how much money you received at the conclusion of the experiment depended on your behavior as well as that of an experimental counterpart.
  - B. In order to facilitate the belief that you were given genuine information on the IQ of an experimental counterpart, we administered the fake IQ test. Because today's study is not concerning IQ, but rather perceived IQ, the test did not need to be real.
- V. Final instructions
  - A. Please do not discuss the details of the study with anyone else. This study will continue to be administered to participants in the coming semesters and our participant pool comes solely from Montana State University Students. This means that telling others about the study may taint our only participant group.

- B. Today's study relies on deception to carry out the experiment. If students are aware of the details of the study, our results may be unusable. Please do not 2.
- C. inform other students that our study uses deception.

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I have read aloud all of the previous points with the participant and have given him/her to ask questions.

Researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I have had all the points on this form explained to me, and I had the opportunity to ask questions about the true purpose and experimental manipulations that took place in this study.

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Please sign below if you have received \$8 from the experimenter during or after the experiment.**

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Research participant,

Now that you have learned the true and full purpose of the current study and know about the actual manipulations that took place as part of this study, will you wish to have your data to be included in this research project?

**Please Sign Only One Of The Lines Below**

YES, I DO want my data to be included in this study

\_\_\_\_\_

Participant

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**OR**

NO, I DO NOT want my data to be included in this study

\_\_\_\_\_

Participant

\_\_\_\_\_

Date