

## Example Debriefing Script for Studies Involving Deception

### Debriefing Script

Thank you for your participation in the study. I would like to take a few minutes to tell you about the purpose of this study. The goal of this study is to look at how people respond emotionally to various emotional stimuli. Specifically, we are interested in how emotional expressions and emotional stories affect viewers' emotional reactions. In addition we are interested in how "normal" students respond to these stimuli compared to psychopaths. This means that your responses will be compared to those of psychopaths who completed the same questions. As it turns out the ranking task was just a way to examine people's emotional reactions to the various faces and stories without them being aware that we were interested in these. We adopted this approach so that participants would not be distracted with trying to figure out the hypothesis or feel compelled to rate their emotional in a non-truthful way. Furthermore, our purpose was not to "trick" you, but to allow you to respond naturally to the various pictures and stories. So, as you may see there are some misleading aspects to this study, but we hope that you understand that they were included for an important reason. Are you all ok with this or have any further questions about these aspects of the study?

We believe this study is important because it allows us to better understand how psychopaths differ from non-psychopaths in how they react emotionally. Although you took part in the collection of the non-psychopathic participants, the psychopath data was collected independently from a regional mental health facility.

All of the information that was collected today will be kept in complete confidentiality and there will be no way of identifying your responses with your identity. We are not interested in any one participant's responses by themselves. Rather, we are interested in the general responses of all participants when they are combined together.

If you are uncomfortable in any way as a result of answering any of the questionnaire items, then please speak with me before you leave.

Your participation today was greatly appreciated and will help in furthering our understanding of emotions in psychopaths. We ask that you do not discuss this research with anyone else, at least until the end of the semester, because it could ruin the study for other participants. Would that be ok with you? If you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation in this study please contact <INSERT PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR NAME>. His contact information is listed on your copy of the consent form.