

Deception Form

Research involving deception occurs when participants do not know the true purpose of the research in advance. A simple test for possible deception is to ask yourself "Is there any information in the procedures section of the ethics application that I would not be willing to tell the participant in the study prior to their participation?" If the answer to this is yes, then deception is involved. Only research that meets the requirements of TCPS2 Article 3.7 will be exempted from full disclosure at the time of consent (http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/chapter3-chapitre3/#ch3_en_a3.7a). If you are conducting a study involving deception you must complete the Deception Form. This information, and the rationale behind its exclusion from the initial consent process, must be provided to the participants in a debriefing procedure.

Where partial disclosure or deception has been used, debriefing is an important mechanism in maintaining the participant's trust in the research community. The debriefing should be proportionate to the sensitivity of the issue. Often, debriefing can be a simple and straightforward candid disclosure. In sensitive cases, researchers should also provide a full explanation of why participants were temporarily led to believe that the research, or some aspect of it, had a different purpose, or why participants received less than full disclosure. The researchers should give details about the importance of the research, the necessity of having to use partial disclosure or deception, and express their concern about the welfare of the participants. They should seek to remove any misconceptions that may have arisen and to re-establish any trust that might have been lost, by explaining why these research procedures were necessary to obtain scientifically valid findings.

Please note that participants must be able to indicate their consent or their refusal at the end of the project following the debriefing process.

If your research involves deception please answer the following questions and include them in Appendix H.

- Deception undermines informed consent. Indicate:
 - Why you believe deception is necessary to achieve your research objectives;
 - Whether you think the research can be done any other way; and
 - Why you believe that the benefits of the research outweigh the cost to the participants.
- Outline the anticipated impacts of your deception on the participants once they have learned of it.
- Describe how you will debrief participants at the end of the study.