Sample Debriefing Statement when deception is used

Thank you for participating in our study. The purpose of the study was to see how well people memorize information. Although we couldn’t tell you this sooner, we were looking at whether receiving negative vs. positive feedback would make people work harder. We hope that this information will help us learn more about the kinds of feedback that teachers should give students. You received negative feedback saying that you did not perform well, but that information was not true. In actuality, you performed the same as most people who do this task, so your true performance level is really higher than what we told you, and you should feel proud of that.

If you would like to learn more about this topic you can go to (*list some resources*)…

If participating in this study made you feel upset, you can talk to me about it now, or you can contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*e.g., the campus counseling center at 55-1212, etc.*).

Sample Debriefing Statement when deception is not used

Thank you for participating in our study. The purpose of the study was to learn about ways to help hospice workers deal with the loss of their patients. If you would like to learn more about this topic you can go to (*list some resources*)…

If talking about your experiences as a hospice worker has made you feel upset and you’d like to talk to someone about your feelings, you can contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*e.g., the campus counseling center at 55-1212; Provide a list of referrals, etc.*)