
The Introductory Script

The **introductory script** can be used in lieu of a consent form for exempt studies or studies where a waiver of documentation of consent is applicable. It can also be used as a recruitment method as a guide to introduce the study to potential participants for in-person interactions or online postings.

In all cases the script provides the necessary information advising research participants (or potential participants) of pertinent information about the research study so they can make an informed decision about participation.

The **introductory script** is written in a way that can be easily understood when either read to or presented to the participant. It should be brief but informative. The following topics must be addressed:

1. The term “**research**” must be included.
This term is preferred over “experiment.”
2. A **description** of the study.
The description should give the participant an overview of the research including what the participant will be asked to do, how long it will take, where it will take place, etc.
3. **Risks and benefits** should be mentioned and to the extent to which any are expected.
If no risks are expected that can be plainly stated as well as any possible benefits. Note that payments are not considered a benefit to participation. Payments are compensation for time and effort.
4. Indicate what **compensation**, if any, will be provided.
The payment can take the form of cash, gift cards, course credit, candy bar, etc.
5. Explain how **confidentiality** of all information provided will be protected.
If data is collected anonymously that should be stated, if not, a general statement indicating that the participant’s confidentiality will be protected should be included.
6. Address the **voluntary** nature of research and **right to withdraw** at any time.
As participation in research is always voluntary, participants need to be informed that they can refuse to participate in the research study or stop participation at any time.
7. Provide **contact information** of the researchers.
Contact information of the researchers must be provided to the participant so he/she is able to ask questions at anytime during the study or after.