Under Item III, #1 of the IRB Human Subjects Approval Request II: “When and how will subjects be provided with feedback about the study?” a statement should be made that participants will be debriefed orally or in writing. If the debriefing is to be oral, a “script” of what subjects will be told should be attached. If all or part of the debriefing is to be in written format, a copy of the actual debriefing statement to be given participants should be attached:

Oral and written debriefings need to contain the following information:

1. A “thank you” for participating.
2. A statement of the purpose of the study – the hypothesis/research questions being investigated and results expected.
3. Information about when and where results will be available.
4. Information about whom to contact should there be further questions or should the person experience undesirable consequences from participating.

Keep in mind that the major benefit that most of our research participants get from participating in studies is the experience of being in a study. The more background information you give them about the basis for the study, the more they will learn from the experience.