



# 4-Way Test Speech Contest

## Student Information Packet

1. **THE PURPOSE** of the speech contest is to help youth, Rotarians and the community-at-large to more completely understand, encourage, and foster the principles of ethical behavior, Rotary and the objects of "Service Above Self."
2. **ELIGIBILITY** is open to all high school age students , grades 9 - 12.
3. **THE CONTEST** is sponsored by your local Rotary club.
4. **ENTRY FORM: (see attachment)** To qualify for the contest, entry forms must be received by the Sponsoring Rotary Club 4-Way Test Speech Contest chairperson.

### 5. RULES OF THE SPEECH

**TOPIC OF SPEECH:** The topic is at the discretion of the student, one that generally applies Rotary's 4-Way Test to an important issue in our everyday world:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

**DELIVERY:** The speech should be delivered in an extemporaneous manner. Notes will be permitted, but reading is discouraged. A memorized presentation is more impressive. Prompting from the audience will disqualify speakers.

**LENGTH OF SPEECH:** The speech should be not less than five minutes or more than seven minutes in length. Penalty points will be assessed if the speech length is outside these limits.

**CONTENT OF SPEECH:** The speech given by each contestant must be original in content and must show clearly the practical application of the Rotary Four-Way Test to the subject of the speech and the lives of the age-group of the contestant when applicable.

Contestants should write a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples and quotations. Humor and personal touches are appropriate. Examples of winning 4-Way Test speeches can be found on YouTube.

**Winner advances to Rotary District Competition:** Participants must be available for District competition in order to advance in the contest. The winner must commit to attend the District level competition on May 16, 2026 in Eugene, Oregon, should he/she win the Club and Area level competition. Transportation and a supervising Rotarian will be identified to accompany the winner at contest site.

## **JUDGING CRITERIA — Same at all levels of competition**

A total of 100 points is possible for a contestant to be awarded (or deducted) as follows:

### **CONTENT 0 - 40 points**

Use of example. Theme/subject adherence. Human interest, appeal, and color. Clarity and expressiveness. Persuasiveness.

### **ORGANIZATION 0 - 10 points**

Introduction. Logical development. Support of ideas. Smooth transitions. Conclusion.

### **DELIVERY 0-30 points**

Voice control, articulation, enunciation. Body language (gestures, facial expression). Sincerity.

### **APPLICATION OF 4-WAY TEST 0-20 points POINT TOTAL max = 100**

- \* Is it the truth?
- \* Is it fair to all concerned?
- \* Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- \* Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

***TIME PENALTY 1 point for each 15 seconds (or fraction thereof) that the speech is under 5 minutes or over 7 minutes. (Subtract points)***

**Rotary**  
DISTRICT 5110



## 4-Way Test Speech Contest Student Entry Form

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Coach (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Speech Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If selected as the Club winner or alternate, I will be available to speak at the District Contest on: **Saturday, May 16 in Eugene, Oregon.**

I agree to abide by the rules of the Rotary International District 51100 Four-Way Test Speech Contest. I certify that the speech is my original work.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(print parent Name)

## **CONTEST RULES in BRIEF**

**ELIGIBILITY** - Contestants may be a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior in public, private or home school.

**LENGTH OF SPEECH** - 5 to 7 minutes.

**DELIVERY** - Speech may be memorized or notes may be used, but reading is discouraged. Memorized is certainly more impressive. Prompting from the audience will disqualify speakers.

**TOPIC** - Rotary's current theme and how the 4-Way Test does apply to an important issue in our everyday world. The Rotary 4-Way Test asks the following questions:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it BUILD GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Necessary information about the 4-Way Test may be found at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Contestants should write a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples and quotations. Add some humor and personal touches. At the District level of competition, contestants should not identify their Rotary Club sponsor. For reference, examples of past winners can be found on YouTube.

Specific questions should be directed to your local 4-Way Test Speech Contest chairperson at the local sponsoring Rotary Club.