Greetings **[PRINCIPAL OR TEACHER NAME]**!

It would be greatly appreciated if you could forward this out to your students.  Many thanks!

**Rotary Club of [INSERT NAME]**

**Four-Way Test Speech Contest 2025**

**Contact: [INSERT NAME OF CLUB COORDINATOR]**

**Phone: [INSERT COORDINATOR NUMBER]  Email: [INSERT COORDINATOR EMAIL]**

The purpose of the Four-Way Test Speech Contest is to foster ethics and civility in everyday life, as well as in business. The contest is designed to introduce 9th grade students to the Rotary principles of ethics and service. The contest is also aimed at encouraging young people to learn to express themselves well in public. In nearly every profession, the ability to express one’s thoughts and ideas clearly, concisely, and persuasively is an important skill.

The specific goals of the contest are as follows:

* To acquaint youth with Rotary, and, specifically, the tenets of the Four-Way Test.
* To demonstrate and enhance Rotarians’ commitment to youth.
* To heighten awareness of Rotary among parents, school officials, and the community.
* To recognize, encourage, and reward accomplishment in our youth.
* To encourage 9th Grade students to develop public speaking skills.

**Eligibility**

Contestants must be in Grade 9 and attend a public or private school, or be in those grades and be homeschooled, within Rotary District 6220.

**Contest Topic**

**"Navigating the Digital Landscape: The Hidden Dangers of Cyberbullying"**

**In an era where social media dominates our interactions, the prevalence of cyberbullying poses a profound threat, particularly to minority and marginalized populations who already can face intense societal pressure. Cyberbullying can affect our mental health and self-esteem and can also perpetuate inequality and bias.**

**Points to address in your speech:**

1. How Rotary’s Four Way Test serves as a helpful guide for individual youth navigating the challenges of social media.  Provide specific situational examples where making the right choices can be guided by your application of the Four Way Test.
2. In the larger community, taking into special consideration the unique challenges faced by minority and marginalized populations, how can Rotary’s Four Way Test serve as the foundation as youth are empowered to cultivate a more inclusive and compassionate digital environment.

**Additional Helpful Resources:**

**STOP BULLYING.GOV**

According to **stopbullying.gov,** cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, Text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.

**WISCONSIN YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY**

The Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is conducted as part of a national effort by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to monitor health-risk behaviors of the nation's high school students. These behaviors, in turn, result in the most significant causes of both mortality and morbidity during youth and adulthood. The behaviors monitored by the Wisconsin YRBS include mental health, traffic safety, weapons and violence, suicide, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, sexual behavior, nutrition, and exercise. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has administered the YRBS every two years since 1993.

Helpful summary information from the YRBS

[Social Media and Health Risk Behaviors](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/yrbs23_HRB.pdf)

[Mental Health Data Summary](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/yrbs23_MH.pdf)

[Disparities for Marginalized Groups](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/yrbs23_MG.pdf)

**Rotary and the Four-Way Test**

From the earliest days of Rotary, Rotarians have been concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world’s most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Rotary Four-Way Test, which Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created in 1932 when he took charge of a company facing bankruptcy. This twenty-four-word test for employees to use in making decisions in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with suppliers and customers. The company survived and prospered, and its success is credited to this simple philosophy. Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The Four-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

**Of the things we think, say or do:**

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?

**Timeline**

**[NAME OF ROTARY CLUB] Contest submission deadline** **– [INSERT DATE]**

**In-Person/Virtual [LOCAL ROTARY CLUB NAME] competition** **– [INSERT DATE]**

**Virtual District 5500 competition** – Saturday, April 12th, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**District Prizes**

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in the District competition as follows:

**1st Prize: $1000 2nd Prize: $750 3rd Prize: $500**

**Club Prizes**

Clubs are encouraged to award prizes that will attract participation and reward participation. If the Club can afford it, it is suggested that club level cash prizes be awarded to the top 3 finishers in the club competition as follows:

**1st Prize: $500 2nd Prize: $350 3rd Prize: $250**

**Contest Rules**

1. Speeches must be the original work of the contestant. Other than the words in the Four-Way Test, no more than 75 words may be quoted and must be identified as such.
2. Each one of the four parts of the Four-Way Test must be included in the speech.
3. **Speeches must be at least 5 minutes and no more than 7 minutes in length**. Deviations of up to 15 seconds will be permitted, but the judges will deduct points for failure to stay within the time limits (1 point for each 5 seconds less than 5 minutes or more than 7 minutes). Any speech that deviates from the time limit by more than 15 seconds will be disqualified.
4. Speeches will be delivered via Zoom.  Bonus points will be awarded to those that deliver their speech from memory with no notes.
5. No visual aids or props of any kind are to be used. Audience participation is considered to be a prop and any attempts to encourage audience participation will result in disqualification.
6. **An electronic copy of the speech and entry form (below) must be submitted by email to [CLUB COORDINATOR NAME AND EMAIL] by [SPECIFIC DEADLINE] Please put in the memo line of the email: [ROTARY CLUB NAME] 4 WAY SPEECH CONTEST ENTRY – YOUR NAME**

**Judging Criteria**

Speeches will be judged as follows:

**Content       50%**

Content includes organization, originality of thought, and success in addressing the topic (“How would the application of The Rotary Four-Way Test create positive opportunities?**),** clarity and expressiveness of language, grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.

**Delivery       50%**

Delivery includes clear enunciation of words, eye contact and rapport with the audience, vocal projection, vocal expressiveness, tone and pace, posture, and gestures.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks!  
  
[NAME]

Four Way Speech Contest Coordinator

Rotary Club of **[NAME]**

**[CONTACT PHONE NUMBER]**



**Student Speech Contest Entry Form**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Student’s address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ email:

ALL SPEECH CONTESTANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT THE CLUB AND DISTRICT CONTESTS IN ORDER TO ENTER THE CLUB CONTEST.

I will be available for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Rotary Club contest on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If selected as the Club winner or alternate, I will be available to speak at the District 6220

Speech Contest on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

I agree to abide by the rules of the Rotary International District 6220 Four-Way Test Speech Contest. I certify that the speech is my original work.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature