



The Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest for High Schools Students

Rotary District 7620
October 2021



STEP ONE – Make Contact

- Visit the school or schools within your club area
- The right contact person is important
- Be prepared to discuss Rotary and the concepts of Rotary
- Discuss how Rotary fits into the community
- Discuss projects your club has worked on

STEP TWO – Explain the Contest

What is the Four-Way Test?

The Four-Way Test was created in 1932 and adopted by Rotary International in 1943.

It 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?**

STEP TWO – Explain the Contest

Who Is Eligible?

Any High School student may compete, except for any previous winner of a District 7620 Four-Way Test Speech Contest.

Immediate family members of Rotarians are not eligible to compete.

STEP TWO – Explain the Contest

Contest Rules

- Subject - Application of the **Rotary Four-Way Test** to a topic of the contestant's choice.
- Length of Speech - no less than five minutes and no more than six minutes. Penalty points will be deducted from the contestant's score for violation of time constraints.
- Speech content must be original.

STEP TWO – Explain the Contest

Evaluation and Judging

- **Opening** – Dynamic opening, commanding immediate audience attention. Use of the Four-Way Test - each part of the 4 Way Test must be used in the speech.
- **Content** – Clear, effective theme with supporting documentation, examples and/or other data to support the main theme.
- **Organization** – Well organized with an orderly presentation of premise, contents and conclusion
- **Delivery** – Forceful, commanding, well-modulated, entertaining, enlightening, and interesting with effective and correct use of the English language (contestant must not read the speech)
- **Overall Reaction** – Speaker’s poise and effectiveness of speech in leaving audience with a message, and the general impact of the complete package: speaker, speech, delivery.

Scoring

Rotary International District 7620 Four Way Test Speech Contest-Scoring Sheet									
Speaking Criteria Score each criterion separately. Add points awarded to determine final point value. Then, rank contestants 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , etc.	Maximum Point Score	POINTS AWARDED TO EACH CONTESTANT							
		CONTESTANT NUMBER							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
a. Opening – Is the opening dynamic, commanding immediate audience attention?	10								
b. Use of the Four Way Test Three points to be awarded for each part of the test used									
1st – Is it the Truth?	6								
2nd – Is it Fair to all concerned?	6								
3rd – Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?	6								
4th – Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?	6								
c. Content – has a clear, effective theme with supporting documentation, examples and or other data to support the main theme.	16								
d. Organization – The talk is well organized with an orderly presentation of premise, content, and conclusion.	20								
e. Delivery – The delivery is forceful, commanding, well modulated, entertaining, enlightening, and interesting with effective and correct use of the English language. <i>(issue a 10 point deduction if speech is read – occasional reference to note cards is acceptable).</i>	20								
f. Overall Reaction – Consider the overall presentation, speakers poise, and effectiveness of speech in leaving the audience with a message, and the general impact of the complete package: Speaker, Speech and Delivery.	10								
Total Score (highest possible score is 100)									
Rank totals by 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.									

STEP THREE – Plan the Contest

- Choose the proper class, or club to launch the contest
- A club member should work with the teacher
- Set up a school competition
- Judging the school completion
- Schedule a regional finals at your club
- Select a winner to advance to the District Semifinals

STEP FOUR – District Semifinals

- The winner of the club level contest will participate in the District Semifinals.
- Each participant will fill out a participant agreement as well as the club supplying a registration form with a \$200 registration fee. These are located on the District Website.
- Participants will present their speeches to the assembled group and competition judges. (Judges will be from various Rotary Clubs.)
- Judges will select winners using the judging guidelines in the Judging Format Slide.
- No prizes shall be awarded for Semi-Finals competition Phase.
- A maximum of four (4) contestants will be selected for participation in the District Finals

STEP FOUR – District Finals

The final competition for District Championship will be held at the District 7620 District Conference. (Transportation will be provided by the Rotary Club sponsoring the participant if needed.)

The participants present their speeches to the assembled Rotarians at the District Conference; all Rotarians present will be allowed to evaluate and judge each speech, using the Judging Guidelines in the Judging Format Slide.

Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

- **1st prize – \$ 1,500**
- **2nd prize – \$ 1,000**
- **3rd prize – \$ 750**
- **4th prize – \$ 500**

Creating a Timeline

Work your timeline in reverse:

- District Finals are **April 30, 2022** at the District Conference or virtually
- District Semifinals are **April 16, 2022** at 8:30 AM at Glen Burnie High School or virtually
- File your Participation Agreement and register your contestant by **April 1, 2022**
- Hold you Club competition in **late March 2022**
- Start club level competition in January

District Resources

There are a number of resources that can be found by going to:

- **District 7620 → District Programs → Youth programs → Four Way Test**
- **IP address: <https://rotary7620.org/four-way-test-speech-contest/>**

These include:

- Dates for deadlines
- Mentorship opportunity for each speaker
- Registration forms and code of conduct forms
- Videos of last years finalists

Want to participate but not have a club competition?

NEW THIS YEAR: We have an alternate route this year if your club has an interest

You can support an at-large Roteract or RYLA nominee for the \$200 registration fee

The at large pool will be winnowed to the number of at large sponsors we have.

For instance, let's say we have 12 clubs that wish to sponsor, and 20 Roteractors or RYLA participants that participate, 12 will advance to the semifinals on April 10th with your club as sponsor.

Temrah Okonski for details at: okonskitg@Verizon.net, 240.426.3404

Thank You For Joining Us!