



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

Rotary District 7620

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?**

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.

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.

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	1 st – Is it the Truth?	3							
	2 nd – Is it Fair to all concerned?	3							
	3 rd – Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?	3							
	4 th – Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?	3							
c. Content – has a clear, effective theme with supporting documentation, examples and or other data to support the main theme.	18								
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>	30								
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.									

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 described on previous slides.

Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

- **1st prize – \$ TBD**
- **2nd prize – \$ TBD**
- **3rd prize – \$ TBD**
- **4th prize – \$ TBD**

First round of judging, district semifinals, and finals,

- First round of judging will either take place at the club level or at the Four-Way-Test Committee level. 12 students will be selected to compete at the District Semifinal level. Judges will be from various Rotary and Rotaract Clubs.
- These 12 students will fill out a participant agreement form and clubs will fill out registration forms with a \$200 registration fee. These are located on the District Website.
- Judges will select winners using Rotary 7620 standard judging guidelines. Judges will be from various Rotary and Rotaract Clubs.
- 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
- District Finals will be held during the annual Rotary 7620 conference in April.

Timeline

- District Finals are in **April** at the District Conference
- District Semifinals are held two weeks before the District Conference: Either held at Glen Burnie High School (8:30 a.m.) or are held virtually, in **March**
- First round of judging is held two weeks before the District Semifinals, in **March**
- Participation Agreements and registration forms due for contestants in **March**
- Students without school support and matched with Rotary or Rotaract mentors. All students begin preparation: Select topics, write speeches, practice presentation skills. **January through March**
- Start advertising this competition in January

Students who attend schools that do not have Four-Way Test Speech Contest club support, may submit an application without club support.

Clubs, not already sponsoring student(s) will be asked to support these students for the \$200 registration fee.

Contact Temrah Okonski for details about sponsoring an at large student: okonskitg@Verizon.net, 240.426.3404

Contact Matt May for details about developing an internal club Four-Way Test Speech Competition: heymattmay@gmail.com, 410-340-9127.

There are a number of resources for both students and mentors on the Rotary 7620 Website.

This includes:

- Dates for deadlines
- Registration forms and code of conduct forms
- Videos explaining how to judge and how to prepare for a contest
- Videos of last years finalists

Thank You For Joining Us!