

Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest Rules

Subject / Topic: contestant's choice

Each contestant chooses the topic of his/her speech. The purpose of the speech is to persuade others **while applying the principles of the Rotary 4-Way Test**. The issue to be addressed should be from the speaker's personal experience or general knowledge. There are no restrictions regarding the choice of topic as long as it is not blatantly offensive. If a contestant or coach is in doubt about the appropriateness of a topic, he or she should check with the Club Contest Chair. The decision of the Contest Chair will be final.

Length of Speech - no less than five (5) minutes and no more than six (6) minutes. Penalty points may be deducted from the contestant's score for violation of time constraints. Any High School student in grades 11 and 12 may compete, except for any previous first place winners of the District 7620 Four-Way Test Speech Contest. Immediate family members of Rotarians are not eligible to compete.

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

The Rotary Four-Way Test.

Of the things we think, say or do...

- 1. Is it the truth?**
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build good will and better friendships?**
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**