

## ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST SPEECH COMPETITION RULES

Grade: All contestants must be in the 9-12th grade at time of club contest competition.

Speech Topic: Each contestant shall choose the topic of his/her speech. The purpose of the speech is to address an ethical problem using the principles of the 4-Way Test. The problem to be addressed should be something 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 or Club President. The decision of the Contest Chair or Club President will be final.

In the speech, the topic must be specifically related (connected) to the Rotary 4-Way Test. This must be addressed during the body of the speech and not reserved for concluding statements only. Each one of the four parts of the Four Way Test should be addressed during the speech. They should be specifically stated, as the intent of the speech is to use the Four Way Test to guide one's decision making about an issue. Examples of previous speeches can be found at [www.youtube.com/user/rotaryspeechcontest](http://www.youtube.com/user/rotaryspeechcontest). These are to be speeches and not dramatic presentations. Content should be relevant and in good taste. All speeches must be the original work of the speaker.

Speech Length: Speeches must be at least 4 minutes and no more than 6 minutes in length. Two penalty points will be deducted from the contestant's score for each 15 second violation of time constraints either under 4 minutes or over 6 minutes.

Props: No props are to be used. Audience participation will be considered a prop. Two points per infraction will be deducted for use of props.

Notes: Contestants may use note cards as an aid at the club level competition, Semi-finals and Finals. The use of note cards is to be done judiciously. Use of note cards may result in point deductions if a judge determines it to be excessive. Five points for excessive use of note cards will be deducted. Former District Winners are not eligible to compete.

The Four-Way Test:

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?