

Coronado Rotary Club 4 Way Test Public Speaking Contest Information and FAQs

Eligibility: Any high school student in good standing except a student who has participated and won 1st place at the District level in a previous year. Students may participate through one club only.

Rules of the speech:

Subject: Apply the 4 Way Test to any topic:

Is it the Truth?

Is it Fair to all concerned?

Will it build Goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

Delivery: The speech should be delivered in an extemporaneous manner. Notes will be permitted at the club and sub-regional level but will be limited to only one 3x5 card at the regional finals. No notes will be permitted at the District Finals.

Length of Speech: The speech should be between 5 minutes and 7 minutes in length. Penalty points will be assessed if the speech length is outside these limits.

Speech Content: The speech given by each contestant must be original in content and must show clearly the practical application of the Rotary 4 Way Test to the subject of the speech and the lives of the age group of the contestants where applicable. Each element of the Rotary 4-Way Test must be addressed during the body of the speech and not reserved for concluding statements only.

Props: No props are to be used. Audience participation will be considered a prop. Penalty points will be subtracted for use of props or encouragement of audience participation,

Structure of the Contest: A preliminary competition will be held at Coronado High School in February. The 4 top finishers at the school will present their speeches at the last February meeting of the Coronado Rotary club. Cash awards will be given to all 4 club finalists – the Club Winner will receive a cash award of \$250 and will advance to the District Sub-Regionals level to compete against other Club winners. The top 2 finishers at the Sub-Regionals will advance to the Regional level. The top 3 Regional finishers will advance to the District 5340 Finals at the end of April. Every participant beyond the Club level will receive a cash award, of course with the larger awards going to those whose speeches receive higher scores.

FAQ

This sounds like a lot of work. Is it worth my time?

If money motivates you, here are the available cash awards:

School contest: No cash awarded, but top 4 finishers advance to Coronado Rotary Club contest, where they are guaranteed a cash award.

Coronado Rotary: First-\$200, Second-\$100, consolation-\$50. Coronado Rotary Club winner advances to next level.

Sub-Regional: First-\$175, Second-\$100, Third-\$75, consolation \$50. Top 2 places advance to next level.

Regional: First-\$300, Second-\$175, Third-\$100, consolation \$75. Top 3 places advance to District 5340 Finals.

District Finals: First-\$1000, Second-\$750, Third-\$500, remaining places \$300.

So, while you may not win the maximum hypothetical award of \$1675, there are a number of ways your speech could earn you serious money,

What else is in it for me?

Lots of non-monetary benefits. Maybe there's an issue or ethical problem in your life that you've been stewing about. Validating your feelings and arguments within the framework of the 4-Way Test may just give you the personal satisfaction of having **PROVED** the correctness of your feelings. Speeches have often served double-duty as the basis of an essay on a college application; in fact, participation in a Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest is considered a plus by many college admissions offices. Also, you get to practice public speaking before a sympathetic audience, so that an important interview or presentation will seem a little less terrifying next time.

What can I use as a subject?

Literally anything, as long as it is in good taste. Because the 4-Way Test is an ethical standard, you will best use it to explore an ethical or moral issue that you have experience with. How do you get help for a friend with a substance-abuse problem – or should you stay uninvolved? Do people have the right to refuse vaccination, even when it may spread disease? Why do you volunteer? Is health care an entitlement? The more of a connection you have to a topic, the more your speech will practically write itself.

I need more help getting it together

Use the 4-Way Test as your outline:

1. Introduction. You introduce your topic, and conclude with "Let's put (my topic) to the Rotary 4-Way Test".
2. "Is it the Truth?" – Explain why your topic passes or fails the Truth test.
3. "Is it Fair to all concerned?" - Explain why your topic passes or fails this test.
4. "Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?" - Explain why your topic passes or fails this test.
5. "Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?" - Explain why your topic passes or fails this test.

6. Conclusion. Wrap up with the statement that you have completely proven that (your topic) inarguably passed or failed the 4-Way Test. A strong finish also will include a call for a definite action on the listener's part.

*****Also, study these District-winning speeches*****

One speech uses the 4-Way Test to **validate** the proposal; the other to **refute** an everyday practice. For more examples, simply Google "Rotary Four Way Test".

Note the structure, personal anecdotes, and personal involvement of the speakers with their topics:

Mindful parenting: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXbPXF2qI&feature=youtu.be>

Derogatory speech: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-66BtjyJXU>