# 

**SPEECH CONTEST RULES**

**RULES OF COMPETITION**

**Topic:**

Given the pandemic and effects at home, at school, in your community, and in the world, we ask students to address the Four Way Test in the framework of “Life in the Pandemic.” This can include, but is not limited to actual experiences in their life; their observations of reactions & responses during the pandemic; school during the pandemic; physical distancing and safety measures; and expectations about the “new normal.” The speech may not be profane, obscene, unpatriotic, or racist. The topic must be specifically subjected to The Four Way Test, and must be used throughout the body of the speech and is not to be reserved for opening or concluding statements.

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:  
Of the things we think, say or do

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?

**NOTE: If a club is only doing a club contest and NOT participating in the district contest, they may choose the topic. (See outline on options.)**

**Eligibility:**

1. Contestant must be a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior in high school (or the equivalent).
2. Students can participate each of his/her four years in high school.

**Delivery:**

1. The speech is to be presented without aid of lectern, multimedia or props. However, a 3 x 5 note card with outline of the speech may be used. The note card may not contain the speech word for word. It is an outline only and is subject to review by the judges.
2. The contestant may move around or stay stationary during the speech.
3. Each contestant should receive a copy of “Speech Contest Rules,” and prepare a four (4) to six (6) minute speech based upon the guidelines. The speech time limits will be strictly enforced with the minimum set at four (4) minutes and the maximum at six (6) minutes. Any speech that falls outside either of these limits will receive a three (3) point deduction.
4. There will be a timekeeper as the contestant presents his/her speech. Warnings in the form of colored cards can be provided at the contestant’s request.

**Content:**

1. The speech given by each contestant must be the work of the contestant alone.
2. No more than three (3) quotes may be included in the speech. Included quotes need to have sources that can be provided upon request of judges or district chairman.

**For those choosing to do the club contest only (and not participate in the district):**

1. Contestants will draw as to the position his/her speech is to be given. The drawing is done upon arrival and sign in at the competition.
2. The competition will be held in one round.

**Judging:**

1. Contestants will be judged on content, organization, and presentation.

Each speech will be judged according to the following:

**Content and Organization (50 total points)**

Appropriateness (10 points)

Interest (15 points)

Accuracy (10 points)

Sequence of thought (15 points)

**Presentation (50 total points)**

Appearance (5 points)

Vocal quality (5 points)

Poise (5 points)

Expressiveness (5 points)

Persuasiveness (10 points)

Originality (10 points)

Overall impact (10 points)