

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION



**SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES**

DISTRICT 6960 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

4 WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

ATTENTION DISTRICT 6960 ROTARY CLUBS

Rotary clubs around the world are committed to the Rotary 4 Way Test Essay Contest to promote the principles Rotary represents. As part of the Rotary International District 6960 commitment to this project, district leaders provide support and guidance for local sponsorship of this contest to all 56 clubs. Now is the time to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to highlight Rotary's Four Way Test and to inspire our 8th Grade Students. ALL CLUBS are strongly encouraged club to partner with a local school (or schools) and sponsor the 4 Way Test Essay Contest.

Read the attached documents explaining what the contest involves and how a club can put an Essay Contest together.

Contact Chet Sadler (239-472-7257 / chet@sanibelrotary.org), chair of the District Essay Contest Committee, for more details. Chet is committed to having every club in the district participate. Please forward the attached documents to your club's Youth Services chair and have them organize a team to execute this project.

Clubs should submit the winner of the Four Way Test Essay Contest to Chet by March 25, 2023. Chet and his committee will select an overall winner for District 6960, who will be honored at our Spring District Conference.

Rotary 4 Way Test Essay

The Rotary 4 Way Test Essay is a project that Rotary Clubs all over the world have committed to as a way of promoting the principals it stands for. Rotary International District 6960 is committed to this project and is providing support and guidance for all Clubs in the District. Last year, the District recognized the first and second best essays in the District with awards of \$500, \$250 respectively.

Here are the basics:

1. In October or November, Rotary Clubs participating in this activity contact a local school or schools to determine schools that wish to participate and identify contact information for the lead teacher or contest supervisor for the contest in those schools. Normally this is the English or Language Arts teacher.
2. The Club decides the best date, normally at the beginning of March, by which the school (or schools) and then the Club will have selected the top two or three essays in each school and forwarded those essays to the District Chair of the contest for the selection of District winners
3. Clubs and schools announce the contest well in advance of the deadline date and place the contest rules on the Clubs' and schools' websites, along with a suggested theme based on the principles of the 4-Way Test. For example: "Give an example of how you might or could apply one of the 4-Way Test principles in your everyday life" or "How might the 4-Way Test help you in making decisions."
4. At that time, the Club also decides and announces the number of and amount of any awards it will make for contest winners from among submissions to that Club.
5. All eighth grade students (or students in an equivalent grade) are invited to participate by submitting essays, but individual students in lower grades may also be permitted to participate at the discretion of the school contest supervisor.
6. Each school and school contest supervisor will evaluate the best 8 to 10 essays submitted at that school and submit them to the Club for final selection by a Club committee of the winners of the awards to be made by that Club.
7. It is suggested that Clubs normally give awards to the top three essays, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, including commemorative plaques and monetary awards of \$100, \$50 and \$25.
8. Additionally, it is suggested that the school and the Club honor the winners with appropriate publicity, such as congratulating the winners on school video and maintaining a binder of winning essays and photos of the winning essayists in a prominent place available to school visitors. An appropriate plaque honoring each year's winners may also be displayed in a prominent place in the school lobby or reception area. Finalists, parents, and teachers should be recognized and awards presented at a sponsoring Rotary Club function.
9. Upon submission of the winning essays from all Clubs by the end March 2023, the District committee responsible for management of the contest will select the top three essays in the District. The winning essayists will be announced and awards made with appropriate fanfare at the 2023 Spring Summer District Conference. Winners may be asked to read their essay at the District Conference. Students, parents and teachers will be invited to that event also.

Student 2021-2022 Rotary Club Essay Contest Rules

Background/History of the Four Way Test

The Four Way Test was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932 when he was asked to take charge of a failing aluminum cookware company that was facing bankruptcy. Mr. Taylor believed the best competitive advantage to guide his company was a strong code of ethics. Mr. Taylor developed a simple and effective, four question assessment of ethics that everyone in the company could quickly memorize and easily apply in their business and professional lives. His premise was that the proposed test should not tell people what to do, but ask them questions, which would make it possible for them to assess whether their proposed plans, decisions, actions, etc. were right or wrong. Mr. Taylor's employees used this Four Way test in all aspects of their business and professional life. The survival of the company was attributed to the results this simple philosophy enabled.

The Four-Way Test has stood the test of time! It is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The 4-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and Rotarians recite it at club meetings. Of the things, they think, say, and do, Rotarians ask these four questions, called the Four-Way Test:

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?

The Rotary Club firmly believes that if all people used this Four Way Test to guide their thoughts and actions, the world would be a more ethical and peaceful place. To that end, local Rotary chapters are sponsoring an essay contest for eighth graders at their local schools, encouraging them to deeply consider the implications of these four questions in their personal lives.

The Challenge to You!

- Apply the Four Way Test approach to a particular problem or conflict that you or other people in your age group are facing or have faced. Perhaps a personal dilemma or an issue facing your community, school, team, club or friends.
- Then write a 400 to 600 word essay describing the conflict or problem and how it has been or could be rectified by a person's application of some aspect of the 4-way test.
- Please avoid mentioning names of specific people involved.

- In summary, you are asked to write an essay describing how one or more of The Four-Way Test principles have been or could be applied to resolve a conflict or problem faced by individuals in your age group.

The essay requirements:

- Cover Page: Page 1 of your essay must be a cover page including 1. The title of the essay (same as on the essay itself), 2. Your name, 3. The name of the teacher in charge at your school, 4. The school name 5. The city name, and 6. The name of the hosting Rotary Club
- The Essay must be typed, 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, 400 to 600 words with all pages numbered, and saved in a .pdf format. It should begin with the title of the essay (same as on cover page) but must not include your name.
- Proofread to ensure that your essay conforms to the standard conventions of the English language.
- Turn the essay into the teacher in charge of the contest in your school by the deadline date set by that teacher. Essays will be evaluated by school faculty and Rotarians. Winners will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Focus on the topic
2. Insight into both the issue discussed and the principles embodied in the Four Way Test
3. Clarity and quality of writing

The local winners will receive a monetary prize and may be recognized on a plaque in their School's front office. They may also be asked to present their essay at their local Rotary Club. The overall District winners may also be asked to attend an awards ceremony at the District Conference in 2022,