

THE 2024 ROTARY "4-WAY TEST" ESSAY CONTEST

District 7720

Andrew M. Garlick, Youth Services Chair

amgrotary@gmail.com

917-656-8778

The Purpose of the Contest

District 7720 is pleased to again sponsor a 4-Way Test Essay Contest to provide middle school / junior high school students (6th, 7th, and 8th grades) with a simple and straightforward tool to use in making decisions in their everyday lives. This essay contest is designed to introduce students to the Rotary principles of personal ethics and service in their community. It also is aimed at encouraging young people to learn to articulate their values coherently, in writing. In nearly every profession they may consider in their future, the ability to express one's thoughts and ideas clearly, concisely, and persuasively is an important skill. Additionally, the 4-Way Test Essay Contest is meant to encourage and involve local Rotary Clubs with the youth of their communities.

How Your Club Can Be Involved

All club Presidents in District 7720 are asked to initiate this 4-Way Test Essay Contest in their local school districts. Public, private and home-school educational systems should be encouraged to participate. An Essay Contest Chair should be named to serve as a liaison with the District's Essay Contest Chair. Individual clubs may decide to award modest cash prizes and/or gift certificates a part of their essay competitions. A letter to the Chairperson coordinating a local essay contest is attached. In addition, the Entry Form for submitting the winning essays to the District contest is also attached and should be copied for each essay (up to three top winners).

4-Way Test Background

From the earliest days of Rotary, Rotarians have been committed to promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is the 4-Way Test, which Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created in 1932 when he took charge of a company facing bankruptcy. This twenty-four-word test for employees to use in making decisions in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with suppliers and customers. The company survived and prospered, and this is credited to this simple philosophy. Adopted by Rotary in 1943, the 4-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions, requiring each individual to provide the answers:

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?

Eligibility

Any junior high school student, in grades 6, 7 or 8, in a town/city represented by a Rotary club in District 7720 is eligible to participate, whether public, private, or home schooled. **Previous District First Place winners may not compete this year.**

Judging Criteria

Clubs should organize their own competitions, using the rules contained in this guide. At the District level, contestants will not be identified by name or Club, only by a contestant number. A panel of three judges will be selected for the District contest. Each judge shall assign points for the following:

1. Content
 - Organization, originality of thought, success in addressing the topic (the Impact an application of the 4-Way Test has on the topic chosen), clarity, and expressiveness of language, grammar, syntax, and vocabulary.
2. Specifics
 - Proper completion of the Entry Form

Judges will determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and the clubs submitting these essays will be notified by the District Essay Contest Chair. Arrangements will be made with each club to arrange for the presentation of the cash prizes designated for each winner of the District's Essay Contest before the end of the school year.

\$150 Top Cash Prize for District Winner

The 1st Place winner of the District Essay Contest will receive a cash prize of \$150. Cash prizes will also be awarded for 2nd (\$100) and 3rd (\$50) Place winners. All students submitting an essay to the District Contest will receive a 4-Way Test Ribbon Bookmark to recognize their participation.

Timeline

Clubs should notify the District Essay Contest Chair **no later than March 1, 2024** if they will be holding a club essay contest and planning to submit winning essays to the District contest. Club contests should be concluded by **March 22, 2024** so the essays winning 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place from a club competition can be submitted to the District Essay Contest Chair **no later than April 5, 2024**. Winners will be announced in early May 2024.

The Essay Contest Topics

The essay may treat any subject of interest to the student, specific or general. For example, one might choose a topic relating to world peace, to a special friendship, to environmental issues in general or to some issue in particular, to a choice of life-style, to a choice of occupation.

Creative use of one's imagination is encouraged. Topics from previous contests include "College Tuition", "Life is Full of Choices", "Should one Multi-task?", "Censorship," and "Cyber-Bullying."

Essay Requirements

1. Essays must be the original work of the student. Each one of the four questions of the Four-Way Test must be referenced or asked and answered in the essay as they relate to the student's chosen topic.
2. Essays should be limited to two typed pages, double spaced (approximately 1000 words).
3. Each participant (student) must fully complete the entry form and provide it to their local Rotary club essay contest coordinator prior to that club's contest deadline.
4. Clubs must fully complete the section on the bottom of the Entry Form indicating the Essay's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place order.