**202 Four Way Test Speech Competition Outline**

Dear Club Chair person,

District 7980’s Four Way Test Speech Competition continues to be successful — and will be even more so as we **attract more clubs,** more high schools and more speakers. The competition is open to every high school student in the district, subject only to a club sponsoring the student’s school. **One student** per club can be sent to the semifinals There is a **$150 application fee for each student** who makes it to the semifinal competition. The contest requires each contestant to write and give a speech of five to seven minutes — about 750 to 1,000 words — on a topic of their choice, to which they apply the Four Way Test. It can be personal — a decision the student had to make, a situation they were involved in (bullying seems a popular topic because it is something schools are working very hard to suppress). Or it can be broader, global warming, capital punishment, incidences of gun violence in our high schools, or putting pineapple on pizza does not pass the 4-way test as a memorable example.

1. First day of school starts around August 30th, here in Wallingford.
2. Contact guidance counselors and or Interact advisor, debate club, etc.
3. Have the school contacts pick four-six students interested in participating
4. Schedule a big even program, Feb / March time frame
5. Put on your event, score the students

Currently we hold 2 semifinal events, with more club participation this will be reviewed.

**Semifinals**;

1. **Saturday March 28th 2020 9am-12noon starts at 10am,**

**at the Main Trumbull Library,**

1. **Saturday March 21st, 2020 9am-12noon at the Slater Hall Norwich Free Academy.**

**Final: Saturday April 25th, 2020 as a part of our District Assembly, Mystic Marriot Conference center arrive at 11am.**

**Here’s the calendar for your consideration:**

* Identify Club Coordinator(s) — Start as soon as you can. This should be a simple request at a meeting. The task of overseeing the process is only intermittently demanding, and then for short periods. If you have more than one high school in your community and this will be the first time you enter a student, start with a single school — public or private. Expand once you become familiar with the process — particularly for smaller clubs.
* Identify an In-School Faculty Advisor — The Club Coordinator should meet with your best contact(s) — a Principal or Assistant Principal, a senior teacher or administrator, even a Board of Education member to help you identify one or more Faculty Advisor(s). If you sponsor an Interact club, club members or the club advisor could help. While being a Faculty Advisor also requires only intermittent work, a backup never hurts. We have found that offering an honorarium to the Advisor at the end of the process helps (though don’t use it as a recruiting tool). While Speech, Debate and Language Arts (what we used to call English) teachers are the most obvious.
* Identify sources for potential student participants — The same classes and activities whose teachers/advisors are the best sources for program leadership are the best sources of participants — Language Arts, Speech, perhaps Drama classes, extra-curricular activities such as Young Democrats and Young Republicans, Debate Team, Pre-Law club, and Moot Court Team are some examples.
* Recruit Student Participants — Ask the Faculty Advisor hold in-school meetings to get the word out as soon as you can, perhaps in the **Fall semester**, once everyone has gotten into the flow. Recruiting a student who writes for the student newspaper to publish/post a story should help (we will help with this if that helps), as should getting occasional articles as the students progress through writing, practicing, then giving their speeches. If your high school has a Facebook page, a Twitter or Instagram presence or any other active social media activity — or if your Advisor has a social media presence for his/her role as a teacher — use that to get the word out (do not use teacher’s personal social media).

Your objective should to recruit **six to ten students** at the start. Don’t be surprised if one or more drops out. While the benefits of competing are substantial, more so if the student wins at any level, researching, writing and practicing is a non-trivial task.

**It is essential that every student contemplating participating understands that if (s)he wins your local competition, (s)he must be able to attend the Semifinal. And if they win there, they must be able to represent their school and your club at the Final, so we are assured of three speakers.**

* Write, Prepare and Practice Speeches — Students should start research and writing during the **Fall semester** to get as much as they can out of the way as soon as possible (I say this recognizing it runs counter to human nature). They don’t need a finished product then, but semester exams typically begin after Winter Break.

Let me suggest that as students start to practice their speeches, they use their phones to video themselves to see how they look, to assure their speech is between five and seven minutes — and to help them learn their speech. The more of their speech they memorize, the better the presentation. They’ll figure this out too.

* Local competition — Hold your competition **in March/April** — keeping in mind that many districts have a Winter Vacation You will **choose one student to attend the Semifinal**. If you have perhaps five or fewer, you may want to hold this competition at one of your meetings so all your club members can appreciate their high school and can act as judges. As an example, Staples High School has as many as nine students, so they hold a competition in school to select three students, then, about one week later, they hold a competition as a program during a normal club lunch meeting to select the Semifinal representative. Prizes are offered to all three speakers.
* **Club representatives need to fill out form 3b and send a copy for each student to Mark Davis the District 7980 Coordinator of the Four Way Speech contest.**
* **Club representatives are also required to submit application form 2b for their student they send to the Semi-Finals along with a check for $150.00, payable to “Rotary *District 7980”*, mail to: Mark Davis 31 Audette Dr. Wallingford, CT 06492. This fee will cover prizes and refreshments for the speakers.**
* The top two winners at each Semi-Final Competition will continue to represent their clubs at the Finals Competition at the District Assembly. \*\*Student & guest lunch covered by district..
* Clubs are encouraged to offer prizes to club competition winner(s), as they see fit, and may also want to offer an honorarium to their high school’s Faculty Advisor. Monetary prizes will be awarded only at the Finals.
* A sponsoring club must arrange for transportation, food and accommodation needs, and must absorb associated costs incurred by its participants. Specific arrangements must be made by the individual clubs and communicated to the participants to eliminate any misunderstanding.
* Information about the competition, including objectives, application forms and a sample score sheet are available on the District website ([www.rotarydistrict7980.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7980.org)).
* Please follow competition rules and regulations uniformly to assure that each student is prepared for the finals.
* **Semifinal – Saturday, March 28th for area 1 to 10 Main Trumbull Library, and March 21st areas 10/11/12 Slater Hall Norwich Free Academy. 9am to 12noon respectively**
* **Final: No fee for Saturday April 25th, 2020 final held at the District Assemble at the Mystic Marriot Conference Center arrive at 11am, lunch for students and guests covered by District 7980.**
* **The Four competitors at the District Final will receive monetary awards of $500 for First Place, $250.00 three runner ups**

Updated forms are available on the district website, and videos of previous competitions will be available soon.

We look forward to your helping give the Four-Way Test Speech Competition a larger role in Rotary’s youth programs.

Thank you,

Mark Davis

Wallingford Rotary Club

4 – Way Speech Test District Coordinator

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