



# FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

## Rotary District 6600

2019 - 2020

Please direct all questions to the District 6600 Essay Contest Chair:

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Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to ALL concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to ALL concerned?

# HISTORY

The Four-Way Test Essay contest in District 6600 was an initiative of District Governor Do Nguyen during the 2016-17 Rotary year. He envisioned instilling the four-way test into the values of every student within our District. Current District Governor Carolyn Huston is committed to continuing this effort.

## GOAL

The District goal is to have every Club sponsor a Four-Way Test Essay Contest in the seventh and eighth grades of every public and private school in their geographic area. If every seventh and eighth grader in our District prepared a Four-Way Test essay, soon every student would know about Rotary and the values we hold dear. Think of the positive impact on Interact Clubs, on the public image of Rotary and on the future of Rotary.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY CLUB

1. Agree to sponsor the contest.
2. Identify and contact the lead English teacher for the seventh and eighth grade class(es).
3. Review the contest rules on the District website: [www.rotarydistrict6600.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6600.org).
4. Appoint a committee to evaluate the best essays submitted by the teachers from each school. (Judges can include future Rotarians)
5. Select the Club winner(s) and submit the first-place essay(s) to the District office by March 20, 2020. If the local club chooses to award a first-place award to each participating school, all "first-place" essays may be submitted to the District level. If your club only awards one first-place award, then only one essay may be submitted to the District. **The coversheet must be submitted as a PDF. The essay may be submitted as a PDF or Word document.**
6. Recognize the Club winners, parents and teacher(s) and award certificates/prizes.
7. Host the local winner at the District Conference along with the family and teacher.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY DISTRICT

1. Display rules for the contest on the District website.
2. Provide cash awards for the District winners.
3. Appoint a committee to evaluate the winning essays submitted by the Clubs and select the District winners. (Blind contest)
4. Invite the winners, their parents, and teachers to the District Conference May 2, 2020 at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon Ohio where prizes will be awarded to the top three students and the winner will present the winning essay.

## SOME SPECIFICS CONCERNING THE CONTEST

- Original & personal work of the student. (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only, signed pledge required)
- Approximately 1,000 words in length. (Specific administrative instructions attached.)
- No graphics or highlighted text.
- Must be available to be published in the press.
- Must be approved by the student's parents.
- Critical dates established and followed by all concerned for the conduct of the contest.

- Initial screening of nominated essays is performed by the local school English department faculty. The most competitive essays are then given to the sponsoring Rotary Club for final evaluation. (Local club determines the number they will receive from each school.)
- A committee of the sponsoring Rotary Club evaluates the essays in accordance with an established Evaluation Guide. (copy attached)
- Finalists, parents, and teachers are recognized at a sponsoring Rotary Club function and awards presented.
- Media release, with photo(s), submitted to local press.
- The winning essay from each Club is forwarded to the District Office by March 20, 2020.

## MONETARY AWARDS

- First Place           \$300
- Second Place       \$200
- Third Place          \$100

2018-19

## ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

Topic of the essay: Rotary's "**Four-Way Test**" and what it means to the conduct of my daily life.



The Four-Way Test:

1. Is it **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to ALL concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Purpose of the essay: A written essay that explains the student's personal understanding of the "Four-Way Test" and how it relates to his/her life experiences and/or society. How does it influence what they say, think and do?

# WHAT IS THE 4-WAY TEST?

The four-way test consists of four short questions, 24 words, which can make a difference in our lives. It reads:

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?

There is a great difference between winning success and being a success. The 4-Way Test helps us as we go about choosing and acquiring our desired prizes to keep our inner eye open to what we are becoming, not just the prizes we strive to acquire.

The Test does not provide the answers in itself but encourages creative and effective solutions in problem solving situations. Its application is in the world of human relationships. Interestingly enough, no matter how technologically astute we become, nothing can really be accomplished in this world except through people - - ourselves and others working, playing, communicating, trusting each other. Used, the 4-Way Test can create an attitude and atmosphere in which people can better relate, share and implement ideas.

The 4-Way Test is translated into the language of more than a hundred countries and sits on the desks of more than 1 million business and professional leaders around the world.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 4-WAY TEST

This international chain reaction began in 1932. Herbert J. Taylor, author of the 4-Way Test, had just become president of Club Aluminum Products Company in Chicago, Illinois. The company employed 250 people, was bankrupt - - over \$400,000 in debt, in the midst of what is today known as The Great Depression. Mr. Taylor was a Christian man who believed that in right there is might. He believed that ethical conduct played an important role in relationships. He felt that if the company's leadership and its employees were encouraged to think right, they would act right. What was needed was some sort of ethical yardstick which they could easily memorize and apply to what they thought, said or did in their relations with other people. This, he felt would facilitate right action on the part of the company. In answer to prayer one evening came the 4-Way Test. He tried it out himself for sixty days and found it very enlightening. Quite a few of the company's current business practices did not seem to stand up under its scrutiny.

After 60 days, Mr. Taylor, himself a Methodist, discussed it with four of his department heads, by faith a Christian Scientist, a Roman Catholic, an Orthodox Jew and a Presbyterian. He asked, "Is this test contrary to anything in your faith?" The answer was no and they agreed to memorize and use the test in their business decisions. Soon the company adopted it as its official policy of business conduct. He had the test copyrighted. Five years later the company paid off the last of the \$400,000 debt with interest and distributed over a million dollars in dividends to stockholders, in spite of the continuing Great Depression. The company gained much more from its use than the acquisition of a good financial statement. It helped them win friends, build goodwill and inspired confidence not only in their own internal management/employee relationships, but also in the company's relationships with business associates, suppliers and customers. It helped each individual become a better person and better citizen.

In 1943, when Taylor was Rotary International President, it was adopted by Rotary and became a vital part of their Vocational Service Programs. In 1959, Taylor founded a non-profit organization, The 4-Way Test Association, Inc. to promote and assist in its use within the larger business and political community. He died in 1978, but his legacy of the 4-Way Test continues to grow.

## ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST CRITICAL DATES/ACTIONS

Summer/Fall 2019	Recruit lead English teachers of the local 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade classes
February 2020	Essays turned in to teachers
March 6, 2020	Teachers screen and evaluate essays. Competitive essays are submitted to the sponsoring Rotary Club.
March 6-19, 2020	Sponsoring Rotary Club committee selects winning essays.
March 20, 2020	Last date for essays submitted to District Office.
April 13, 2020	District Four-Way Test Committee announces District Winners
May 2, 2020	District Conference at Maumee Bay State Park in Oregon, Ohio. District winner presented with awards.

# ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

## ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

**Eligibility:** \_\_\_\_\_ School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Format:** Microsoft Word format will be used. The essay must be prepared for printing on white paper, size 8.5 x 11.0. The font will be either Century Schoolbook, Arial, or Times New Roman. Print size will be 12 point. Do not insert identifying information on any sheet except the cover sheet. Lines will be double spaced. Do not insert graphics. The use of bold, italics, and/or underlining should be avoided.

**Number of Copies:** A digital copy (with cover sheet) must be submitted to the Contest Chair at [Esther.Baldrige@gmail.com](mailto:Esther.Baldrige@gmail.com). **The essay may be submitted in Word or PDF format and the Coversheet must be submitted as a PDF.**

**Essay Length:** The essay should be approximately 1,000 words in length.

**Coversheet:** A coversheet must be attached to each essay. See the attached format for the Cover Sheet.

**Original Work:** The essay must be the original work of the student submitting the essay for competition. Team writing and the use of work written by other sources, even if foot-noted, is not authorized. Participating students will sign the pledge on the Coversheet, stating that the essay is their original work. Peer review is permissible.

# ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

## EVALUATION GUIDE

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Highlights of the Functional Area</u>
FOCUS	20%	How the author displayed awareness and understanding of the purpose of the essay.
CONTENT DEVELOPMENT	20%	How well did the student display the storyline consistent with the purpose of the essay.
ORGANIZATION	20%	How well did the author present a skillful pattern on the narrative presenting key points.
STYLE	20%	How well the student uses control of the language/ literary devices/ sentence/ paragraph structure.
SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT	20%	Evaluator's overall assessment of the essay.
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	

# ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY COVERSHEET

This sheet will be attached to each essay submitted

Rotary's Four-Way Test

and

What it Means to the Conduct of my Daily Life

---by---

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Rotary Club Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street

\_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip Code

Student's Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I declare that the research and written work on this essay are mine and mine alone. I understand the Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ may publish this essay in whole or in part. There are \_\_\_\_\_ words in this essay.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST  
EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Student's Name

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Evaluation Score (maximum of 20 points per element):

Focus \_\_\_\_\_

Content Development \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Style \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY  
CONTESTANTS FINAL TABULATION

Student's Name

Evaluation Score

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

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10. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## SAMPLE MEDIA RELEASE

The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Four-Way Test essay contest for the seventh and eighth grade English students at \_\_\_\_\_ School. The Four-Way Test is a set of four questions that Rotarians use to assist in the conduct of their personal and professional lives. The questions are: “Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?” The theme of this year’s contest was “The Four-Way Test in My Life.”

The Club recognized three students from \_\_\_\_\_ School who were recognized and presented with monetary awards of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The winners are:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – List Name

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – List Name

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – List Name

With 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographic areas, Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures. For more information about the Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_, and to read the winning essays, visit [www.rotarydistrict6600.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6600.org).

Suggested Photo Caption:

The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_ awarded prizes to the winners of the Four-Way Test essay contest and recognized their teachers. From left to right:

\_\_\_\_\_.