FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

Rotary District 6600

Saturday, April 3, 2027

Event starts promptly at 9:30 a.m.

St. Marys Memorial High School
2250 State Route 66 North
St. Marys, OH 45885

IS IT THE TRUTH?

IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

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

Liz Schultz
(440) 935-3072 · director@oberlinheritage.org

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST RULES

- Contestants must be high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12.
- Students being schooled at home in a program recognized by their school district or the State of Ohio may enter.
- A student may compete in only one Rotary District 6600 club contest.
- Any prior year's winner at any level may compete again at the club and district level, if they are otherwise eligible, so long as they enter with a new speech.
- Material must be original in content and creation, with no use of AI for speech generation or sourcing, and center around applying the Rotary Four-Way Test to an important issue in our everyday lives and/or relationships. The test asks the following four questions:

  IS IT THE TRUTH?

  IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?

  WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

  WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?

- The speech must be at least 5 minutes, but not more than 7 minutes, in length with a 15 second leeway. Points will be deducted for going over or under. Contestants should prepare a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples and quotations. The speech should be memorized. Notes may be used but reading directly from them is discouraged. No displays, props or prompting are allowed. A podium will be available at the district level but not using one generally results in higher scores.
- If a club winner becomes unable to compete at the next level, the runner-up can be offered a chance to compete in the District Contest.
- The District 6600 Competition prize money is:

  First Place - $1,000 Second Place - $500 Third Place - $250

  All other contestants will be considered Fourth Place winners and be given a participation certificate.

DISTRICT 6600 SPEECH CONTEST REGISTRATION FORM

(Return no later than March 27, 2027)

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY

Contestant's Name: _____

Student's High School: _____

Student's Full Address: _____

Student's Telephone: _____

Student's Email: _____

Sponsoring Rotary Club: _____

Rotary Club Contact: _____

Teacher/Coach: _____

By signing below, I indicate my willingness to have my speech reproduced in any form and to have my name, school, and picture used in media releases unless I communicate concerns to the coordinator.

_____ _____

Contestant's Signature Date

Return to District 6600 Speech Contest Contact Liz Schultz via email (scan or clear photograph) or via photo texted to cell (440-935-3072), or via mail:

Mail: Oberlin Heritage Center
PO Box 0455
Oberlin, OH 44074

Email: director@oberlinheritage.org

The Rotary District 6600 Four-Way Test Speech Contest will be held Saturday, April 3, 2027 at St. Marys Memorial High School, 2250 State Route 66 North, St. Marys, OH 45885. The event starts promptly at 9:30am.

STUDENTS: Please email Liz Schultz at director@oberlinheritage.org no later than March 27, 2027 indicating whether or not you will be attending the district contest and, if so, how many guests you will be bringing.

INFORMATION FOR JUDGES

Rotary District 6600 is pleased that you have accepted the responsibility of acting as a judge in its annual Speech Contest. To ensure continuity in the judging process at the club and district levels of competition, please read carefully the judging procedure outlined below. Please note carefully the weighted point value assigned to the three sets of judging criteria and become familiar with the score sheet prior to the contest.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Delivery

Enunciation and pronunciation are basic to any good speech and must be fully considered. Overall expressiveness and sincerity of tone add to the delivery. Animation, humor, holding interest, and power of persuasion are attributes of a winning speaker.

Originality

The manner in which the content is developed will in large measure be determined through its originality. Of major concern will be an approach that is individualistic, imaginative, and has human interest.

Content

The content should relate specifically to the 4-Way Test. Students should be positive in their approach, and ideas used to develop the theme or topic should be presented logically, clearly, and concisely from opening to conclusion.

JUDGING PROCEDURE

Identical score sheets will be used at all levels of competition. Each judge weighs each speech in the range of 1 to 100 points within the three sets of criteria listed below.

Delivery	1 to 30 points
Originality	1 to 30 points
Content	1 to 40 points

In the case of a Tie Score, the contestant with the highest scores for Expressiveness & Poise, Imaginative, and Clarity of Ideas will be declared the winner.

The decision of the judges is final.

Please Note: Judges must not confer during or after a speech. Judges should use pencils and can update scores after seeing multiple contestants and the range of skills presented. After all score sheets have been given to the tellers, then the judges may confer. Under no circumstances should anyone but the three winners be announced. All contestants not in the first three places are considered to tie for fourth place.

JUDGES' SCORE SHEET

Contestant Number _____ Judge's Name _____

Delivery (Maximum Score 30)

- Enunciation and Pronunciation (1-10) _____
- Body Language, Posture, & Eye Contact (1-10) _____
- Expressiveness and Poise* (1-10) _____

Originality (Maximum Score 30)

- Uniqueness (1-10) _____
- Engagement of Interest (1-10) _____
- Imaginative* (1-10) _____

Content (Maximum Score 40)

- Incorporation of the 4-Way Test (1-20) _____
- Logical Development (1-10) _____
- Clarity of Ideas* (1-10) _____

*Criteria to be used as tie-breakers

TOTAL _____