

Objective and Rules of the Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest

Goals are to:

- Develop the study, application, and communication of the Rotary Four Way Test as a moral and ethical model for behavior, decision-making and life practice through a speech contest for high school students.
- Involve broad participation in the contest by students, teachers, schools, parents, Rotarians and others.

Rules for Speech Contestants:

Eligibility:

- Any High School Student in a town represented by a Rotary Club in District 7230 – In the following Counties: Westchester, New York, Richmond, Bronx & Bermuda.

Subject:

- The speech must apply the Rotary Four Way Test as a standard in connection with other topics or life experiences or as a main topic. It need not include all of the four elements of the Four Way Test, but may center on one or more, demonstrating the impact of the Test upon life or society.

Content:

- The content must be original, created by the contestant, but may include references to research, quotations, statistics and material from other sources, as long as it contains an original or unique approach, and is not substantially a copy of another's work.
- Demonstration objects and visual aids may be used, but should not be a major portion of the speech.
- *No slides, videos, or overhead projected images may be used.*

Delivery:

- The speech may not be read. Contestant may not have a text, on paper or in any form. Minimal notes (key words on note cards) may be used. Judges may review these cards and, if they do not meet the standard, may disallow their use. Contestant must maintain eye contact with audience.
- The speech must not sound memorized, but rather have a live extemporaneous delivery style.

Length:

- The speech must be no less than 5 minutes nor more than 7 minutes in length.
- A speech outside these limits is penalized, and may be disqualified.

Contest Procedure:

- Contestants will receive the scoring rubric in advance, and should review it, keeping in mind that content and delivery are of equal weight. (This is a public speaking event, not an essay contest.) In club and semi-finals, contestants will receive the judges' completed scoring sheets.
- The order of speaking will be determined by a random drawing before the first speech.
- Speakers will be identified by number until all have spoken and judges have made an evaluation. Students should not give their name or any other identifying information.
- If selected as a winner in the local contest, the contestant is expected to compete in District semi-finals, and if successful there, at the District Finals.

Rules Violations:

- Judges may at their discretion deduct points from a contestant's total score for any violation of these rules. Judges may disqualify a speaker for gross misconduct or ineligibility.