Rotary District 7390

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Four-Way Test Essay Contest 2024-25

Essay Submission Deadline: March 7, 2025

2024-25 Essay Prompt to be Presented by Your Club to Participants

Students are tasked to choose their own topic as the center for their essay and then apply the four principles of the 4Way Test. That is the prompt for 2024-2025!

What Are We Looking For?

Rotarians across the world apply the "Four-Way Test" to their professional and personal relationships by asking themselves the following:

Of the Things we think, say, or do:
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build good will and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

In 1932, Herbert Taylor, a Rotarian from Chicago, penned the Four – Way Test as a guiding principle in his efforts to rescue a near-bankrupt aluminum company from complete financial collapse. He succeeded in his task and ever since that time Rotarians across the world have adopted Mr. Taylor's Four Way Test as one of Rotary's core values.

While you may not be confronted with rescuing a failing business, we are interested in reading an essay about how the 4-Way Test can impact challenges and situations you may face in your everyday life.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Eligibility: Ninth Grade Students.

Format: The essay should be submitted in .pdf format and suitable for printing on 8.5 x 11.0 paper. The text should be double spaced in 12-point font (Arial or Times New Roman are preferred). Do not insert identifying information such as a name or school on any sheet except the cover sheet. Do not insert graphics.

Cover Sheet: A cover sheet must be attached to each essay. See the attached format for the Cover Sheet.

Submission Instructions: E-mail the winning essay in Word or .pdf format to the District Office – office@rotary7390.org. Include your essay and the fully completed and signed "Rotary Four-Way Test Essay Cover Sheet." Club chairs without e-mail capability should mail their winning essay and cover sheet to the district office.

Essay Length: The essay must not exceed 1500 words in length.

Original Work: The essay must be the original work of the student submitting the essay for competition. Team writing, parental participation, and the use of works written by other sources, even if properly cited, is not authorized. Participating students will sign a pledge on the Cover Sheet stating that the essay is their original work.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY CLUB

1. Agree to sponsor the contest.
2. Identify and communicate with a point of contact in the public and private schools in your geographic service area. Also consider home-schooled students or students at cyber-schools.
3. Appoint a committee to evaluate the best essays submitted from the students to your club. Consider either having the schools submit the essays to you through a contact teacher or have the students submit their essays directly to you.
4. Select the Club winner(s) and submit the first place essay to the District office by March 7, 2025. ***Only one entry per Club will be accepted.***
5. Recognize the Club winners, parents and teacher(s) with award certificates/prizes at the discretion of your Club.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY DISTRICT

1. Appoint a committee to evaluate the winning essays submitted by the Clubs and select the District winners.
2. Invite the winner, their parents, and teachers to the District Conference where he or she will read their essay.
3. Display the winning essays on the District website.
4. Provide monetary awards: First Place - $500, Second Place - $300, Third Place - $100 and a district citation to the three winners.

HISTORY

The Four-Way Test Essay contest in District 7390 was initiated in 2006-07 by the Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg-North in the 9th grade at Cumberland Valley High School. The winner of their 2007-08 contest presented her essay at the District Conference and was well received.

The 2008-09 District Governor challenged other Clubs to have contests in their local schools and agreed that if multiple Clubs did have contests, he would have their winners vie for District honors and prizes. While only 3 clubs participated in 2009, the number has increased since then. The first place winner presents their essay at the District Conference.

CRITICAL DATES AND SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Below is a suggested calendar for you to use in the conduct of your contest. The dates and times **in bold** are critical dates that must be complied with. The remainder are suggested time deadlines but your club can exercise discretion in how it conducts its contest and chooses its winner that is submitted to the district contest.

Late Summer/ Early Fall 2024	Organize your Club's contest. Set deadlines, recruit a judging panel and introduce the Contest to the schools (public, private and home-schools). Find a point of contact at the school who will work with you to introduce the contest to ninth graders. Principals, Guidance Counselors and contacts in the Ninth Grade English Department are suggested resources.
Late January – Early February 2025	Set a deadline at some time during this time period for student submission of essays to your Club.
February 2025	Pick a date (preferably prior to March 7, 2025) to honor your Club's winning essay writer(s), his or her parents and teacher. Be sure to space the deadline for essay submissions and the Club meeting to give yourself, and your judging panel, sufficient time to evaluate the essays and notify the winner(s).
March 7, 2025	**Last date for essays to be submitted to District Office.**
March 21, 2025	District Four-Way Test Committee announces Contest winners.
April 4-6, 2025	**District Conference – Winner reads his/her essay.**

CONTEST EVALUATION GUIDE

Functional Area	**Score**	**Highlights of the Functional Area**
FOCUS	20%	How the author displayed awareness and understanding of the purpose of the essay.
CONTENT DEVLOPMENT	20%	How well did the student display the story line 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.
TOTAL:	**100%**	

Rotary District 7390

Rotary Four-Way Test Essay Cover Sheet

This sheet will be attached to each essay submitted

Student's Name_____

Student's Teacher _____

Student's School_____

Local Rotary Club Sponsor_____

Student's Home Mailing Address_____

Authorized E-mail (may be student or parent/guardian)_____

Student's Home Telephone Number_____

I declare that this essay is my own original work and its ideas are mine and mine alone. I understand the Rotary Club of _____ and Rotary District 7390 may publish this essay in whole or in part and I consent to their so doing. I further release the use of my image and name in any publicity and marketing materials relating to this contest which are developed and published by the Rotary Club or District 7390.

There are _____ words in this essay.

_____
Student Signature

_____
Parent / Guardian Name (Print)

_____
Date

_____
Parent / Guardian Signature

ESSAY CONTEST EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Student's Name: _____

Evaluation Score (maximum of 20 points per element):

FOCUS: _____

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

STYLE: _____

EVALUATOR'S ASSESSMENT: _____

TOTAL: _____

ESSAY CONTESTANTS FINAL TABULATIONS

	Student's Name	**Evaluation Scores & Rank**
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____

For Immediate Release
Rotary Club of _____
Contact _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

The Rotary Club of _____ is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Four-Way Test essay contest for ninth grade students. 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 good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" The theme of this year's contest was "***Rotary's Four Way Test - How it Can Impact Your Everyday Life."***

The Club recognized three students from _____ High School who were recognized and presented with monetary awards of ____, _____ and _____. The winners are:
1st place – List Name
2nd place – List Name
3rd 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.rotary7390.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: _____