

Rotary

District 7390



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Four-Way Test Essay Contest 2020-21

Essay Submission Deadline: March 5, 2021

2020-21 Essay Prompt

Is it the Truth? – How I Define What is True in My Life

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?

A very important, if not the most important, question in Rotary’s Four-Way Test is the first one – “Is it the Truth?”

In this time of “alternative facts,” “fake news,” media bias and “spin” many have wondered: What is true? Where is truth found? Is truth even important? Some question whether truth is absolute or simply relative to a person’s time, background or position in life. Still others question whether people are able to get outside of themselves to view truth apart from their own personal interest. (See Joseph Epstein, *The Four-Way Test in a Post-Truth Era*, The Rotarian (May 2019)).

We would like to hear your thoughts on the “truth.” Please address in an essay how you determine whether something is true and the factors you consider in reaching the answer to “Is it the Truth?” Please also write about how the other three prongs of the Four-Way Test might (or might not) help you arrive at whether something is the truth.

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.

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

Cover Sheet: A cover sheet must be attached to each essay.

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 foot-noted, is not authorized. Participating students will sign a pledge on the Cover Sheet stating that the essay is their original work.