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Four-Way Test Essay Contest 2023-2024

Essay Submission Deadline: Please contact your Rotary Club

2023-24 Essay Prompt **The Importance of Community Service to 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:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Rotarians pride themselves on service both in their local communities and around the world. However, a recent Wall Street Journal Poll indicated that only 27% of those participating in the poll identified public service as being "very important" to them which is down from 62% in a similar poll several years ago. As Rotarians, these numbers are alarming. Is a commitment to community service really in decline?

We would like to hear your thoughts on the importance of community service. Please address in an essay the importance of community service to your life. Include in your essay how Rotary's Four Way Test impacts your thinking on the importance of community service.

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.