



Steven Grubb (Mechanicsburg-North), Four Way Test District Chair  
(Cell): (717) 576-8145  
E-mail: stevengrubb@comcast.net

# Four-Way Test Essay Contest 2018-19

*Essay Submission Deadline: February 18, 2019*

## 2018-19 ESSAY PROMPT

### ***How Rotary's Four Way Test helps me confront or deal with the issue of failure?***

All student essays should be written about this topic. We are hoping the Four-Way Test can be a resource for students as they confront issues throughout their lives. The essay prompt will change on a yearly or bi-yearly basis to keep the contest fresh and relevant.

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Following is some important background on the Four Way Test. The source for this information is "The Story of the Four-Way Test" By Herbert J. Taylor (the full text can be found at <https://www.rotary5630.org/history-of-the-four-way-test/>). We encourage you to go to this web site and read the full story in Mr. Taylor's words.

The origins of the Four Way Test date back to 1932 when creditors of a near bankrupt aluminum company assigned the author of the Four Way Test, Herbert Taylor, to save it from further financial ruin. Competition in the aluminum industry was fierce. Mr. Taylor was looking for a way to distinguish his new company from the others, while at the same time achieving financial prosperity. Mr. Taylor decided that ethics and doing what was right would be the key to the turnaround and he penned these four simple questions that would guide him in his task:

- 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?

Mr. Taylor applied this test to every aspect of the way the company conducted business and his company ended up thriving, not only paying off all of its debts, but also paying dividends to its shareholders. From the depths of failure came an ethical test that is still applied over 85 years later.

**Write an essay about your personal experiences and attitudes toward failure – whether it be an actual failure or perhaps a fear of failure that stops you from pursuing a goal or dream, how might Rotary's Four Way Test help you confront or deal with the issue of failure?**

# INSTRUCTIONS

**Eligibility:** Ninth Grade Students.

**Format:** Microsoft Word format will be used. The essay must be prepared for printing on white paper, size 8.5 X 11.0. The font will be either Century Schoolbook, Arial, or Times New Roman. Print size will be 12 point. Do not insert identifying information on any sheet except the cover sheet. Lines will be double spaced. 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 and the use of work written by other sources, even if foot-noted, is not authorized. Participating students will sign the pledge on the Cover Sheet stating that the essay is their original work.