

2025 Four Way Test Speech Contest Rules

Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say and do:

- 1) **Is it the Truth?**
- 2) **Is it Fair to all concerned?**
- 3) **Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?**
- 4) **Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned**

Topic: Using the Four Way Test as the framework, each participant should choose the topic of his/her 5-7 minute speech. The purpose of the speech is to address an ethical issue using the principles of the Four Way Test. The subject matter of the speech should be something from the speaker's personal experience or general knowledge. There are no restrictions about the choice of the topic as long as it is not blatantly offensive. If a contestant or coach (Rotary facilitator) is unsure about the appropriateness of a topic, they should check with Lisa Strauss (ltstrauss@gmail.com) and it will be brought to the Contest Committee. The decision of the Contest Committee will be final. All speeches must be the original work of the speaker.

In the speech, the topic must specifically be related to the Rotary Four Way Test. This must be addressed during the body of the speech and not reserved for concluding statements only. Each of the four questions of the Four Way Test should be addressed during the speech. They should be specifically stated, as the intent of the speech is to use the Four Way Test to resolve an ethical issue. These are to be speeches and not dramatic presentations. Good eye contact, enthusiasm and movement are encouraged, but the students should not go to extremes. Content should be relevant and in good taste. Topics should be interesting and relevant to the speakers' interest or experiences.

- 1) Identify a situation where you must decide to do or say something (or not do or say anything).
- 2) Use the Four Way Test to develop your course of action. Elaborate on each of the four questions as they relate to your situation. Examine both the positive and negative reasons associated with each possible response.
- 3) After applying the Four Way Test, develop your conclusions and explain the action you chose to take.

Notes: Students are being judged on content of speeches, presentation skills including eye contact, enthusiasm and volume control. Contestants should not use notes during their speech. Timing: Between 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ minutes and 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ minutes- no penalty, Between 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ minutes or 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, deduct 5 points. Under 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes or over 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, deduct 10 points. Students should pace themselves in memorizing their speeches to avoid penalty. Point deductions may vary based on the final rubric used for competition. Participants will receive a copy of rubric as soon as we have it finalized.

Props: Props are NOT to be used. Audience participation will be considered a prop for the purposes of this contest.

AI: Artificial Intelligence is NOT to be used.