

**ROTARY DISTRICT 7870 FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST
2024-2025**

I. Organizing a Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest

- A. Appoint a chairperson for this event under the Vocational Avenue of Service
- B. Local Rotary Clubs make contact with English or appropriate teachers at all area high schools to announce and lay out the program
- C. Notify newspapers and other media outlets
- D. If a high school cannot participate in this event a Rotary Club can and should offer this contest to students outside of school

II. Include the Following Information in All Announcements

- A. Any high school age student, including home-schoolers, from within Rotary District 7870 is eligible
- B. Rules for the speech
 - 1. Subject: the speech must be original in content and apply the Rotary Four-Way Test (**ALL FOUR QUESTIONS**) in our everyday relationships with other people
 - 2. Delivery: the speech may be given from memory, it should not be read though adequate notes are acceptable
 - 3. Length: the speech shall be no less than five (5) nor more than seven (7) **minutes in length** or it is **automatically disqualified**

III. Competition Procedures

- A. By **April 1, 2025**, all Clubs should have completed their local contest and forwarded the **NAMES, ADDRESSES, E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF THEIR 1ST PLACE FINISHER TO:** Albert St.Pierre, 43 Sunnyside Circle, Charlestown, NH 03603 (fax: 603-826-4171) or: Daryl Royce, 154 Summit Street, Charlestown, NH 03603 (e-mail: daryl.pat@comcast.net)
- B. **The 2025 District Semi-finals will be held on Sunday April 6, beginning at 1:00 pm at the Henniker Community Center at 57 Main Street, Henniker, NH. Competitors must sign in by 12:30 pm.**
- C. At the District Semi- final and Final competitions, four (4) judges will preside.
- D. The top **Four (4)** scorers at the District Semi-finals will advance to the District Finals to be held at the **District Assembly on April 26 at a location to be determined.**

IV. Cost per Club

- A. Each Rotary Club may determine how to honor its sponsored local winner
- B. Each Rotary Club is to arrange for its local winner to attend the District Semi-finals at the Henniker Community Center at 57 Main Street, Henniker, NH

V. Winner Obligations

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- A. Local winners are expected to participate in the District Semi-finals. Second place finisher in the local contests could participate in the District Semi-finals if for any reason the first place finisher is unable to compete.

VI. Number of Entrants

- A. Each Rotary Club may enter one (1) contestant in the semi-finals. When two or more clubs conduct a joint contest involving more than one high school, one contestant from each school (including home-schooled students) may be sent to the semi-finals.

VII. Scoring

- A. Each Rotary Club is expected to use the same scoring system as will be used in the District Semi-finals.

A sample of the judges' scoring sheet is included in this packet

VIII. Identification of Contestants

- A. In all contests, contestants must not be identified to the judges, except by number, until the judging is finished

IX. Final Interpretation

- A. These rules are subject to final interpretation by the District Four-Way Test Speech Contest Committee. All decisions of the District Four-Way Test Speech Contest Committee are final

GUIDELINES, GOALS AND DUTIES

I. Goals

- A. To develop the study, application and communication of the Rotary Four-Way Test as a moral and ethical model for behavior, decision making and life practice through a speech contest for high school age students
- B. To involve broad participation in the contest by students, teachers, schools, parents, Rotarians and others

II. Guidelines

- A. Duties of organizing officials
 1. Provide student contestants a copy of the rules and judges score sheet well in advance of the contest by providing copies to schools, teachers or individual competitors. Prizes should be announced to contestants
 2. Provide four (4) judges, a registrar, a timekeeper, a scorer (preferably two scores to double check computation) and two individuals to escort each speaker from a "holding area" to the competition area. These officials may be Rotarians, but need not be. They should be selected and advised to be impartial, preferably selecting those persons who have no personal connection to the contestants

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3. Provide score sheets for the judges, a stopwatch (two stopwatches would be better) and visual time cards for the timekeeper, a large room or auditorium for the contest and any other necessary materials

III. Duties of the Registrar

- A. The registrar shall compile a list of all contestants, check each contestant upon arrival at the contest and allow each contestant to draw a speaking order number, which shall also be the assigned number for the judges' scoring. The registrar shall keep the listing of numbers and names, which shall not be made known to the judges, timekeeper or scorer(s) until they have completed all contest score sheets and time recording.

IV. Duties of the Judges

- A. Judges should be familiar with the rules for contestants as well as these duties prior to the contest. Judges are responsible for independently evaluating each speaker as to each element on the score sheet during or immediately after each contestant has spoken. The next speaker should not begin until all judges have completed scoring a contestant. Judges should not add the numbers of the scoring elements, but hand the score sheet to the scorer. Changing a scoring element after the initial completion is not recommended, except for serious error.
- B. At the completion of all speeches, the judges shall receive from the timekeeper any time violations. Judges should all confer concerning any violation. Once the scoring has been entered, the judges and scorer(s) should obtain the name that corresponds to each contestant's number and provide the highest ranked scores to the moderator.

V. Duties of the Scorer(s)

- A. After the completion of each contestant's speech, the scorer(s) should obtain the score sheet from each judge. The scorer(s) will then add the scores from each element to obtain a total score for each judge, and then compute the average score of the four (4) judges, which will be the basis for selecting a winner.
In case of a tie average score, judges and scorer(s) should attempt to break the tie by determining which contestant scored highest on the Four-Way Test element (judges' score sheet "Content A") as averaged.

VI. Duties of the Timekeeper

- A. The timekeeper should track the speaking time of each contestant with a stopwatch (or two). The timekeeper should sit in the front row or otherwise be clearly visible to the contestants during their speeches. The timekeeper shall give an appropriate visual signal to each speaker to mark the 5-minute time, then 6 minutes, then 6 minutes 30 seconds and 6 minutes 45 seconds.
- B. The timekeeper shall be identified to the contestants just before the contest and shall describe to the contestants the signals they will receive during their speech.

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- C. Immediately upon completion of all speeches and before winners are announced, the timekeeper shall notify the judges, scorer(s) and moderator of the time of any contestant recorded as under the 5 minute or over the 7 minute times.

VII. Duties of the Moderator

- A. The moderator shall preside over the speech contest, explaining the judging, scoring and timing procedures, then calling each contestant to speak in numbered order. When all contestants have finished speaking, a recess should be called. Judges, scorer(s) and moderator should meet privately to complete scoring and compute results. The moderator should inquire of the judges and timekeeper as to any under or over time penalty before announcing the winners to the contestants and guests.

VIII. Organization of a Contest

- A. The Rotary Four-Way Test committee may be flexible in the manner of organizing a local speech contest. This may range from the full planning and presentation of the contest by Rotary members, or may leave planning largely to a school, school class or another organization, with Rotary acting as sponsor.
- B. Whether Rotary plans the contest completely or merely sponsors it, these contest rules should apply and the Rotary Club should supply the prizes. Winners of contests, whether fully organized by a Rotary Club, jointly by several Rotary Clubs or merely sponsored by Rotary, shall have equal representation in the District 7870 Semi-finals.

IX. District Semi-finals/Finals

- A. The first place winner of each local Four-Way Test Speech Contest shall be eligible for the District Semi-finals. An alternate may be named, being the second place finisher, should the first place winner be unable to compete. As a local club or several clubs jointly have conducted or sponsored several contests, each contest is entitled to representation in the District Semi-finals.
- B. The top **Four (4)** semi-finalists will advance to the **District Finals on April 26 at a location to be determined.**

X. Prize Money

District contestants compete for the following distribution of \$1700 prize money by placement:

District Champion - \$650; District Finals Runners-up - \$350 each.

XI. Suggested Timetable

- A. June -- When new Rotary Club officers are selected, a Four-Way Test Speech Contest committee should be appointed and committee budget, including money for prizes, adopted.

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- B. November/December – Schools and students should be informed of the opportunity to compete and the details of the contest. Set a date for the local competition.
- C. March – Local Contests should be held by early March.
- D. April/May/June – District Finals are held in mid-April, May or early June

XII. Review

- A. These guidelines, rules, recommendations and suggestions should be reviewed for any needed changes. Local contest organizers should tell the District Four-Way Test Speech Contest committee of any needed changes.

CONTESTANT APPLICATION

- I. Contestants must be high school age students, including home-schoolers, from within Rotary District 7870.
- II. Contestants must be supplied the following items at the time they apply to the contest:
 - A. A copy of the Four-way Test (see below)
 - B. A copy of this page
 - C. A copy of the rules for the contest
 - D. A copy of the judges' scoring sheet
- III. The speech;
 - A. **THE SPEECH SHOULD NOT BE READ, BUT ADEQUATE OUTLINE NOTES MAY BE USED**
 - B. **THE SPEECH MAY BE DELIVERED PARTLY OR ENTIRELY FROM MEMORY**
 - C. **THEY MUST SPEAK FOR NOT LESS THAN FIVE (5) MINUTES NOR MORE THAN SEVEN (7) MINUTES. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE**
- IV. A contestant must prepare his or her own speech based on the Four-Way Test, showing **ALL FOUR (4)** of the questions as applied to his or her life or a segment of society and demonstrate its impact.
- V. Contestants must be prepared to attend any additional District 7870 contests for which they become eligible.
- VI. Contestant Information:

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Applicant's Name:

Age:

Mailing Address:

E-Mail:

Phone:

School:

Grade:

Sponsoring Rotary Club:

The Rotary Four-Way Test of the things we think, do or say:

- 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?

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JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET

Contestant number: _____

Score: _____

1) CONTENT

A. Practical and effective demonstration of the Four-Way Test throughout

***Show all four of the 4-Way Test questions* (1 – 8) _____ x2 =**

Is it the truth? Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Is it fair to all concerned? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

B. Use of examples from peer group experience (1 – 8) _____

C. Human interest appeal and color (1 – 8) _____

D. Clarity and expressiveness of language (1 – 8) _____

CONTENT TOTAL =

2) ORGANIZATION

A. Introduction – captures attention & establishes major theme (1 – 8)

B. Development – ideas presented & explained
clearly and logically
with smooth transition **(1 – 8) _____**

C. Conclusion – emphasizes major theme **(1 –**

8) _____
& leaves clear concise message

ORGANIZATION TOTAL =

3) DELIVERY

A. Clear enunciation and pronunciation (1 – 8) _____

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B. Good voice projection (easy to hear)
and **voice expressiveness** (tone and pacing) (1 – 8) _____

C. Good eye contact and rapport with audience (1 – 8) _____

D. Relaxed, yet commanding gesture and posture (1 – 8)

DELIVERY TOTAL =

OVERALL TOTAL POINTS = _____

Judge's signature: _____

Date:

Judge's printed name: _____ \