

Essays must be returned to local Rotary Club by MARCH 1, 2016 or as designated by your Local Rotary Club.

(Local Club must confirm entry deadline date.)

STUDENT GUIDELINES

The Four-Way Test Essay Contest Sponsored by Rotary International District 5580

WHAT IS THE FOUR-WAY TEST?

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do is as follows:

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?

The Four-Way Test is not a code or a creed, but a stimulus to self-appraisal. It is not a pledge, but rather a springboard to voluntary self-improvement. It is not a sermon, although any number of sermons has been preached on it. It aims to encourage the ethical instincts in every person and constitutes a simple and practical guide for people of all cultures.

The Four-Way Test has inspired safe driving programs, fire prevention campaigns, crime and drug reduction activities; it has been the subject of countless secondary school essays. It has been translated into more than 100 languages.

WHY DOES ROTARY DISTRICT 5580 CONDUCT THE FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST?

Our Rotarians believe that the thousands of dollars committed are an investment in our youth. It is a statement of our interest in the ideas of our young people. It demonstrates our belief that it is important to reward our youth for expressing their views. And, it is our way to encourage youth to apply the Four-Way Test to the world around them.

PRIZES

There are three levels of competition and prizes:

1. **Local** --- Rotary clubs will provide prizes for the local winners.
2. **Regional** --- The winning local entry will be entered in regional competition. **A \$150 prize will be awarded to the winners of each of the regional contests (six regions).**
3. **District** --- The regional winning entries will be submitted to the district level to compete for the **Grand Prize of an additional \$1,100. (\$1,250 total prize money for the District Overall Winner).**

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in the final two years of high school.

TOPIC

The essay may treat any subject of interest to the student. It may be specific or general. For example, one might choose a topic relating to world peace, to a special friendship, to the environmental issues in general or to some issue in particular, to a choice of life-style, to a choice of occupation. Creative use of one's imagination is encouraged.

Here are some of the topics from previous contests: "College Tuition", "Life is Full of Choices", "Should you Multi-task?", "Censorship," and "Cyber-Bullying."

LENGTH

500 to 1,000 words

PRESENTATION METHOD

A typewritten copy, double-spaced, is to be submitted, along with the signed statement below.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judging will be based on utilization and application of the principles of the Four-Way Test. Essays received that do not incorporate these four (4) principles will not be considered. Student creativity, organization, language and grammar usage will also be considered as part of the overall judging criteria.

----- **CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND ATTACH TO YOUR ESSAY SUBMISSION** -----

My signature below affirms that I am familiar with The Four-Way Test and I understand that my essay must clearly apply these principles in order to be eligible for this contest.

Signature of Student