

BOW ROTARY’S FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST
March 2, 2021

Application: Please email this this completed form to dcascaden@bownet.org

Applicant’s Name: _____ **Age:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

School: _____ **Grade:** _____

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?**

Rules, Obligations, and Contest Details

The Rotary Club of Bow conducts an annual public speaking contest to challenge high school students to develop their public-speaking skills and to explore how they make decisions that affect other people. The basis of the contest is Rotary’s “Four-Way Test,” a tool to encourage ethical decision making. Bow Rotary awards cash prizes to the top three speakers and sends the winner on to compete against winners from other clubs in our district, which includes much of southern New Hampshire and Vermont.

Our 4-Way Test Speech Contest is for local high school students who either attended Bow High School or who are Bow or Dunbarton students who attended other area high schools. Bow High School tuition students from other towns are also welcome.

February 19, 4 pm: **Application deadline.** Email your application to: dcascadden@bownet.org
March 2, 6:30 pm: Bow Rotary contest, via zoom. (Zoom link will be emailed to all applicants but not to the general public). The top speaker from Bow’s contest will go on to the semi-finals. (If the winner cannot participate, the runner up will represent Bow at the semifinals.)
March 21, 12:30 pm: District semifinals contest, via Zoom. The top four speakers here will go on to the district finals.
TBD District finals contest
Eligibility: Any high school age student living in Bow (including those attending private schools or being home schooled) and any student enrolled at Bow High School

Rules for the speech:

1. Subject: the speech must be original in content and apply the Rotary Four-Way Test (**ALL FOUR QUESTIONS**) to decisions about our everyday relationships with other people. *The best speeches are personal.*
2. Delivery: the speech may be given from memory, it should not be read, though adequate notes are acceptable
3. Speakers *may not* use Zoom’s shared screen, background props, music, or assistants.
4. Length: the speech shall be no less than five (5) nor more than seven (7) minutes in length or it is automatically disqualified

Prizes: **Bow Rotary:** 1st prize: \$500 2nd prize: \$300 3rd prize: \$100
Rotary District: 1st prize: \$650 three runners up: \$350

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Note to Speakers: This is the first time Bow has conducted its contest on Zoom so we are experimenting with the format. We plan to email all contestants a zoom link a day or two before the event. Students may invite parents or siblings to watch on a separate screen. The club's zoom account cannot handle more than 100 participants so please do not share the link with a broader audience. We will have a panel of judges on the zoom call and speakers must remain anonymous until the winners are announced. We will instruct participants to change their names on the zoom screen before the judges enter the room.

Contestants must use both webcams and microphones so that judges can see and hear them.

If possible, contestants should use computers linked directly to the internet rather than with wifi connections. This should reduce the chance of bad connections, drop-outs, delayed sound, etc. Judges will try to be understanding of minor glitches, but we do not anticipate allowing contestants a second chance to present their speech, even if technical problems mar the presentation.

Judging Criteria:

CONTENT

- Practical and effective demonstration of the Four-Way Test throughout (all four questions)
- Use of examples from peer group experience
- Human interest appeal and color
- Clarity and expressiveness of language

ORGANIZATION

- Introduction: captures attention & establishes major theme
- Development: ideas presented & explained clearly and logically with smooth transitions
- Conclusion: emphasizes major theme & leaves clear concise message

DELIVERY

- Clear enunciation and pronunciation
- Good voice projection (easy to hear) and voice expressiveness (tone and pacing)
- Good eye contact and engagement with audience
- Relaxed and professional presentation