The District 5580 4-Way Essay Contest materials are now available and ready for you to download and print.  The essay contest is open to students in their final 2 years of high school, and the District winner will receive a $1,250 cash award (includes Regional Award of $150).  Six Regional Winners will each receive a cash price of $150.

Clubs are encouraged to begin contacting their schools and distributing materials as soon as possible.  Your club’s participation is a statement of interest in the ideas of our young people and demonstrates our belief that it is important to reward our youth for expressing their views in a constructive and meaningful way.

Students in their final 2 years of high school are eligible to participate, preparing an essay of 500 to 1,000 words in length, double-spaced and using a topic of their choice that incorporates the use of the Rotary 4-Way Test:

**Ø  IS IT THE TRUTH?**

**Ø  IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?**

**Ø  WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

**Ø  WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?**

Topics of recent winning essays can be found in the Student Guidelines.

**TO DOWNLOAD** the documents you will need, either retrieve them from the distributed email packet, or find them at [**www.rotary5580.org**](http://www.rotary5580.org) then locate the YOUTH dropdown menu and select 4-Way Essay Contest. Document links are found on the left side of that page.

Specifically, students will need the **Student Guidelines** and **Student Entry (Information) Form** and will submit their essay WITH the information form (required)**.** Essay chairpersons will make appropriate adjustments to the poster, press-release and student guidelines documents. Please be sure that students use YOUR name as the Rotary Club Contact and Phone on the Student Information Form.

Essays are to be electronically submitted to the **Essay Contest Chair, Paul Burnett**, not later than **December 31, 2024**.  It is suggested that clubs use a deadline of **November 30, 2024** for receiving entries so that they can be judged locally and the winning essay sent to the Essay Contest Chair by **December 31, 2024**.  ***EACH CLUB’S ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION MUST INCLUDE THE STUDENT ENTRY FORM, CLUB CONTACT INFORMATION AND STUDENT ESSAY PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 31 2024 DEADLINE. NO LATE ENTRIES, PAPER COPIES OR ENTRIES WITHOUT THE STUDENT INFORMATION FORM WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL ENTRIES MUST COME FROM D5580 CLUBS, NO STUDENT SUBMITTED ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.*** Paul’s email address and contact information are as follows:

Paul Burnett

District 5580 Essay Contest Chair

Cell: 612-251-3318

Email: paul.burnett.1234@gmail.com SUBJECT: ROTARY ESSAY CONTEST

ENCOURAGE YOUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS to promote this opportunity, and ENCOURAGE YOUR AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS to participate as well. ***ALL ENTRIES MUST COME FROM D5580 CLUBS, NO STUDENT SUBMITTED ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.*** We look forward to receiving your club’s winning essay!

**Rotary Essay Contest statement of disqualification for plagiarism and unauthorized or *suspected* use of AI:**

Rotary supports the highest form of ethical standards and therefore considers plagiarism, in its many forms including the use of AI, inexcusable. Essays *believed* to be plagiarized or artificially constructed in all or part, will be automatically disqualified. If found to be the case, any announced prize placement or distributed prize money will be forfeited.