

Four-Way Test Speech Contest

Information Packet

2024-2025 School Year

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or 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?

Rotary Club of Durant

Durant, OK

Rotary District 5770

Contact information: Jim Swink, (580)-317-3943, jimswink49@yahoo.com



## Overview

The Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest is a speech competition which has been held for decades in hundreds of locations across the United States. It is offered to high school students as an optional supplement to their usual school curriculum. It is sponsored by the Milton Rotary Club, and will award cash prizes as follows.

First Prize: $300.00 2nd Prize: $200. 3rd Prize $100. 4th Prize $50. Sponsoring school or club $250.

## The Contest

The subject of “USE THE 4WAY TEST TO PROVE OR DISPROVE A SUBJECT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN”. Material must be original in content and be about applying the Rotary Four-Way Test to an important issue in our everyday relationships with other people. Contestants should write a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples, and quotations. Contestants may add some humor and personal touches.

## The Four-Way Test

Since Rotary Clubs were first founded in 1905, Rotarians have promoted high ethical standards in their professional and everyday lives. One of the world’s most widely printed and quoted statements of ethics is the “Four- Way Test”, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian, Herbert J. Taylor when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy. This short test for making decisions became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with suppliers and customers. The survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy.

Officially adopted by Rotary in 1943, the Four-Way Test asks the following four questions:

***“Of the things we think, say or 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?”***

## What is Rotary?

**Rotary International** is an international service organization which brings together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and advance goodwill and peace around the world. It is a non-political and non-sectarian organization open to all people regardless of race, color, religion, gender, or politics. There are 46,000+ member clubs and 1.4 million members worldwide.

## The Goals of the Contest

The goals of the Four-Way Test Speech Contest are:

1. To foster ***principles of ethics*** in communities, business and everyday personal lives.
2. To introduce high school students, their families, teachers, and the community at large to the Four-Way Test and the ethical guideline it provides.
3. To provide high school students with an opportunity to ***develop and practice public speaking*** skills, so they can become ***productive and participatory citizens*** of their community, country, and world.

## Guidelines

1. The contest is open to all high school students in the Bryan County School Districts, and high school level students living in Bryan County who are homeschooled or attend private schools.
2. The topic of the speech must be original in content and MUST ***clearly show the practical application of all four points of the Rotary Four-Way Test.***
3. The speech may be delivered extemporaneously, or can be read from a script.
4. The speech must be between 5 and 7 minutes long. Cumulative penalty points will be assessed for any speech which is under or over time.
5. Speech contest organizers SHOULD NOT identify the speaker, the Rotary Club sponsor, nor any associated Rotarian.
6. Speeches will be judged impartially via the scoring matrix attached.

**For Further Information or Questions Contact:**

Jim Swink (Contest Chairperson) (580) 317-3943 or [jimswink49@yahoo.com](mailto:jimswink49@yahoo.com)

***Additional Information***

# Dates, Deadlines, & Details

**Student Applications Due By: Tuesday 4/1/2025**

**Competition Date: Friday 4/5/2025**

**Competition Details:** The competition will be conducted at the Three Valley Museum,401 W Main Street, Durant, at 3:30 pm. Speakers and their coaches/teachers will receive a complementary snack.

The winners will be judged, by a panel of three judges, based on the scoring sheet attached, which coaches and students are advised to study thoroughly, WELL in advance of the speech performance date. We also recommend that students and coaches view several examples of winning Four-Way Test Speeches available on YouTube. *There are MANY fine examples online.*

Any questions coaches, parents, or students may have can be addressed to Jim Swink, Durant Rotary Club , 580-317-3943 or, jimswink49@yahoo.com

**Judge’s Composite Score Sheet**

**Contestant#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Judge#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Length of speech\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Content (44%)

1. Practical Application of the 4-Way Test throughout the speech. (1-20) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Uses examples from peer group experiences. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Human interest appeal and color. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Clarity and expression of language. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Organization (24%)

1. Introduction-captures audience’s attention and establishes the major

theme of the speech. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Development-Ideas presented, supported, and explained in clear,

logical order with smooth transitions. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Conclusion-Emphasizes major theme in the speech leaving the

audience with a clear, concise message or point of application. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Delivery (32%)

1. Clear enunciation and pronunciation of words. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Good vocal projection (easy to hear volume) and voice expressiveness

(tone and pacing). (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Good eye contact and rapport with audience. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Relaxed yet commanding use of posture and gestures. (1-8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Maximum possible points: 100 Points earned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Penalty \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total points earned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Special Comments by Judge:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ 1. Is it the Truth

\_\_ 2. Is it Fair to all concerned

\_\_ 3. Will it build Goodwill & Better Friendships

\_\_ 4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned

**Four-Way Test Speech Contest – Bryan County**

# Teacher/Coach Intent to Compete Form 2025

Name of Supervising Teacher (please print): Name of School:

Mobile Phone Number: Email:

* I expect to have (approximate number) student entrants.
* I will review the contest information with these students.
* The students will perform their speeches for me for practice and feedback.
* The speeches will conform to the guidelines specified.
* I will arrange for the students to attend the competition.

Coach or Supervising Teacher Signature:

**For Further Information or Questions Contact: Rotary Club of Durant, Jim Swink, 580-317-3943, jimswink49@yahoo.com**

**Four-Way Test Speech Contest – Bryan County Contestant Entry Form 2025**

**Due By: Tuesday 4/1/2025**

School:

Name of Student: Mailing Address: Phone Number: Age: Email Address:

Media Release Consent for Parents/Guardians/Adult Speakers

My signature on this document gives my consent to Rotary Club of Durant to photograph or videotape me/my child and to use such videos, photos, voice or other likeness for future public awareness including print media, online news distribution, Rotary Club of Durant website, television and radio opportunities, video, promotional materials and other educational or exhibition purposes.

Parent or Guardian if Student is under 18, Student’s name if Over 18:

Printed Name: Signature:

Name of Supervising Teacher:

Phone Number: Email Address:

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Below this line FOR CLUB USE - CONTESTANT #