

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5810 FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST INFORMATION

The Four-Way Test Speech Contest in District 5810 invites local high school students to speak about various subjects while applying Rotary's Four-Way Test. Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created the Four-Way Test in 1932 when he was tasked with leading a company facing bankruptcy. This company's survival is credited to this simple, philosophical test for the company's employees to follow in their business and professional lives.¹ In 1943, the Four-Way Test was adopted by Rotary International.



The test asks four ethical questions about the things we think, say, and do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Contest participants write an original speech, of 5-7 minutes in length, which they deliver first at a local Rotary club meeting's Four-Way Test Speech Contest. The winner of the local club's contest advances to the District final to compete against the winners from the other Rotary clubs in District 5810 (a list of Clubs in District 5810 is available at rotary5810.org/clubdirectory).

WHO may participate?

Permitted contestants are high school students (freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors) attending any public, private, or home school located in District 5810. However, a contestant may qualify for the District final from one club only (for example, the 1st place winner of Grand Prairie's contest may not also qualify as the 1st place winner in Frisco's contest – in such situation, the contestant would be required to choose which club to represent, and the other club's 2nd place finalist would represent the other club at the District final).

WHAT is the topic/content of the speech?

Participants choose a topic that interests them about an important issue in our everyday relationships with other people (regardless of whether the issue is global, local, national, personal, or in-between) and then apply the Rotary Four-Way Test to the issue. The speech must be original and reference each prong of the Rotary Four-Way Test. Participants are encouraged to include facts, statistics, quotes, stories, examples, humor and their own personal touches. However, the speech may not mention the participant's name, school, city or sponsoring Rotary club.

HOW is the speech delivered?

Memorization is not required but is strongly encouraged. The speech should be written in advance of the contest; however, reading the speech (rather than reciting) is discouraged – using notes, note cards, etc., is acceptable. Speeches should be 5-7 minutes.

¹ A more detailed history of the Four-Way Test, told in Mr. Taylor's words, is available at "History of the Four-Way Test" found at <https://rotary5630.org/history-of-the-four-way-test/>.

The speeches are delivered “anonymously” – that is, participants do not announce their names, schools, cities, or sponsoring clubs to anyone but their sponsor (typically, the Youth Services Director at the sponsoring club) until after all participants have presented and the judges have announced their decision. At both the club contests and the District contest, participants will be assigned a number and called to present based on that number (ex., “Now we will hear Speaker #1”).

Judges will score each participant’s speech based on content, organization, and delivery. For example, content scores tend to focus on originality, creativity, imagination, timeliness, the human interest, and application of the Four-Way Test. Organization scores tend to focus on the speech’s structure (ex., how effective is the introduction? how were examples used in the body of the speech? how did the conclusion wrap-up the speech?). And delivery scores tend to focus on diction, pronunciation, projection, grammar, clarity, articulation, tonal variance, and the extent to which the participant engages the audience (ex., gestures, eye contact, etc.).

WHEN is the District final?

May 6, 2023 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Participants should arrive no later than 9:15 a.m. to check in.

HOW do participants get involved?

Contact the Youth Services director of a Rotary club near you (a list of Clubs in District 5810 is available at rotary5810.org/clubdirectory). District 5810 clubs may submit one 1st place winner; clubs may also submit one runner-up/alternate who will take the 1st place winner’s spot if the 1st place winner cannot participate on May 6, 2023 (however, only one winner from each club may participate in the District final). Each club must register its winner for the District final no later than May 3, 2023. If you have questions, please email Jim Bullock at jbullock@johnstonclem.com.

WHAT is the cost to participate?

Participation in the District final is no-charge to students. Each club pays an entry fee of \$95.00 for its student-participant in the District final.