

**Rotary**  
District 6630



**4** **WAY**  
**TEST** 

**SPEECH CONTEST**

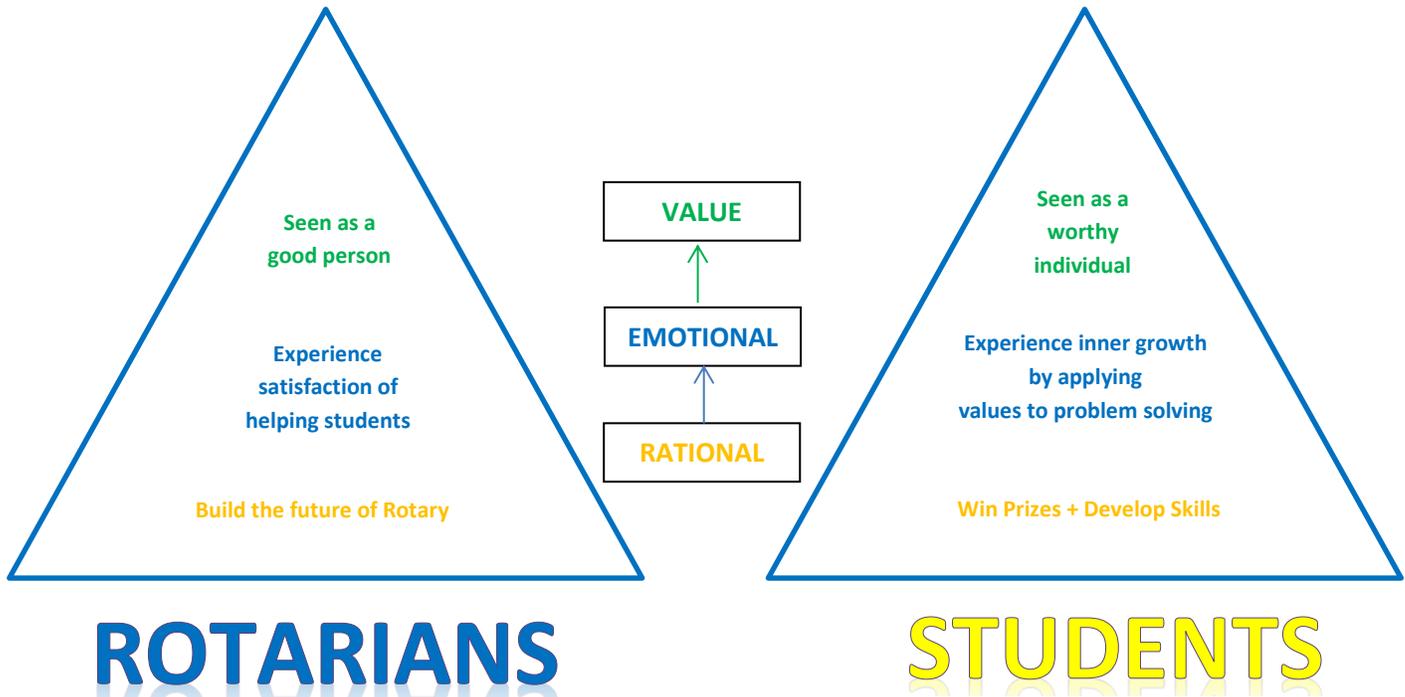
*(Semi-Finals and Finals)*  
**CONTEST GUIDE**

## INTRODUCTION

Rotary District 6630 covers North East Ohio and comprises of 51 clubs.

The 4-Way Test Speech Contest is an important part of Rotary District 6630 program for High School students. The contest provides a forum for Rotarians to enjoy the satisfaction of helping students develop critical thinking and communication skills. Students can win attractive prizes by applying cherished Rotarian values to solutions that they recommend to ethical problems of our times. The contest is also an opportunity for students to gain valuable public speaking experience.

### 4-WAY TEST BENEFIT LADDER

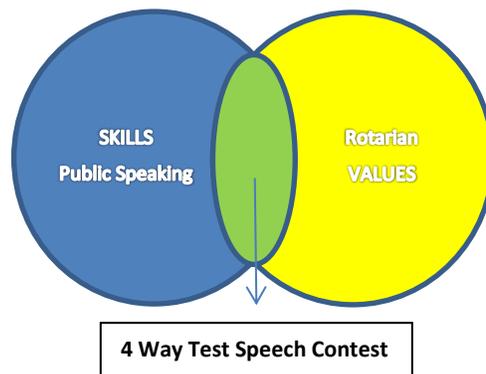


## Origin of the 4-Way Test

In the year 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, Rotarian Herbert Taylor set out to save the Club Aluminum and Distribution Company from bankruptcy. He was the only person in the company with 250 employees who had hope. His recovery plan was rooted in changing the ethical climate in the company. He believed that if corporate policies reflected high ethics that God would want in any business, things would get better. He searched in vain for a simple, easily remembered guide to right conduct – a sort of ethical yardstick – which all in the company could memorize and apply to what they thought, said and did. So he did what he often did when he was faced with a problem and couldn't find an answer. He rested his head in his hands and prayed. After a few moments he reached up, reached for a white paper card and wrote down the twenty-four words that had come to him:

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?

He called it "The Four-Way Test" of all the things we think, say or do.



## Skill of Public Speaking

The formal study of public speaking began approximately 2500 years ago in Greece. The ancient Greeks considered public speaking to be a critical skill to have for participation in public life. Even today, the ability to communicate thoughts and ideas clearly and convincingly is important for success in life. Public Speaking helps build self-esteem and increases social confidence.

The 4-Way Test Speech Contest takes place at 3 levels:

#### **School Level**

- a) Contests originate at High Schools and is open to all students in Grades 9 to 12.
- b) Participating schools determine which students' progress to the Club level. Clubs specify the number of students that schools can send. Schools may involve Rotarians in judging their contests.

#### **Club Level**

- a) Clubs are eligible to advance 1 winner per school to the District level contest. Clubs that have more than 1 school in their jurisdiction can determine the number of students that they send to the District contest (subject to the 1 winner per school rule).
- b) Clubs are responsible to register and pay admission fees for students to participate at the District level contest, prior to the deadline.

#### **District Level**

- a) The District level contest is held in two rounds, a semi-final round and the finals. Both rounds take place on the same day.
- b) Winners from the Club level are grouped at random to compete in the semi-final round.
- c) 1 winner from each group advances to the Finals.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

- a) All students from Grades 9 to 12, in participating High Schools of Rotary District 6630.
- b) Clubs may also invite home schooled students from Grades 9 to 12, to participate at the Club level.
- c) Children of Rotarians are eligible to participate in the contest.

#### **SELECTION SEQUENCE**

- a) Clubs invite High Schools to participate, specifying the number of students per school. Schools may involve Rotarians in judging their contests.
- b) Clubs may also invite home schooled students from Grades 9 to 12 to participate at the Club level.
- c) Clubs are eligible to advance '1' student per school and '1' home schooled student per club to the District level.

## SPEECH SUBJECT AND PREPARATION



The purpose of the speech is to solve an ethical problem using the principles of Rotary's Four Way Test. It should be something from the speaker's personal experience or general knowledge. There are no restrictions regarding the choice of topic as long as it is not blatantly offensive.

Each part of the Four-Way Test should be addressed during the speech. They should be specifically stated, as the intent of the speech is to use the Four-Way Test to resolve an issue. Each part could be used to prove either a positive or negative point. The speech should be five (5) to seven (7) minutes long. (Please refer to the Timing of Speeches section for more information).

Note cards may be used to recover from a mental blank out and avoid an embarrassment, but should be unobtrusive and not be obvious or relied upon during the speech. Even if a speaker chooses not to use note cards, they may have them at hand in case of an emergency. Use of Props should be limited. All speakers will speak from the same platform or designated area.

### *Semi-finals*

A desk, podium or microphone will NOT be available in the speaking rooms.

### *Finals*

A portable microphone will be available and is optional.

A podium or desk will be available and is optional.

## TIMING OF SPEECHES

- a) The Chief Judge appoints 2 timers per semi-final group; Timer (A) manages the stop watch and Timer (B) manages the signaling device.
- b) Speeches shall be from five (5) to seven (7) minutes. A speaker will be disqualified if the speech is less than four (4) minutes and thirty (30) secs and more than seven (7) minutes and thirty (30) secs.
- c) Timer (A) who manages the stop watch is responsible to deliver the Record of Speech Timings form to the Head Judge of the group.
- d) Timer (B) who manages the signaling device must ensure that it is in full view of each speaker.
  - A green signal will be displayed at five (5) mins and remain displayed for one (1) min.
  - A yellow signal will be displayed at six (6) mins and remain on for one (1) min.
  - A red signal will be displayed at seven (7) mins and stay on until the conclusion of the speech.
- e) Timing begins with the speakers' first definitive verbal or nonverbal communication.

Visit [www.rotarydistrict 6630.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6630.org) click on [Four-Way Test Speech Contest](#) to view speeches of past winners.

## **ROLES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Chief Judge**

The Contest Chair/Co-Chair will appoint a Chief Judge. The Chief Judge will appoint 'Rotarians' to serve as judges and timers at the contest.

#### *Semi-finals*

- a) The Chief Judge will appoint 3 voting judges per group. He/she will designate one of the judges to be the head judge, who will be the tie breaking judge.
- b) The Chief Judge will appoint 2 timers per group.
- c) The Chief Judge will not serve as a semi-final judge.

#### *Finals*

- a) The Chief Judge will appoint 2 voting judges and 2 timers for the finals. Best efforts must be made to ensure that no judge from the semi-final round will be appointed to judge the finals.
- b) The Chief Judge will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> voting judge at the finals and also have the tie breaking vote.

The Chief Judge will brief judges and timers on their duties before the contest.

- i) Ascertain that each judge has received and reviewed the Ballot, and each timers has done the same with Time Record Sheet .
- ii) Inform judges and timers that there will be one (1) minute silence between speakers during which the judges need to mark their ballots and timers need to record time.
- iii) When the last speaker has finished speaking, the Timer (A) will hand over the Time Record Sheet to the Head Judge of the group (semi-finals) or Chief Judge (finals). The judges will then meet privately to determine the winner of the group (semi-finals) or winners (finals). Once the results are finalized, the Head Judge/Chief Judge will hand record the name of the winner (semi-finals) and names of winners in reverse order (finals) and give it to the Contest Master. The Head Judge/Chief Judge will discreetly discard the ballots and time record sheets. The decisions of judges are final and binding.

## **Contest Master**

The Contest Chair/Co-Chair may appoint a Contest Master to MC the event.

### *Semi-finals*

- a) Conduct contestant briefings;
  - i) Verify the presence of speakers, pronunciation of their names and ascertain that they are grouped accordingly and know their speaking orders.
  - ii) Review the contest rules and timing protocols.
  - iii) Introduce the NHS students to the respective groups and start the contest.
- b) Inform the audience;
  - i) Rules have been reviewed with judges and speakers.
  - ii) Turn off or silence cell phones during the speeches.
  - iii) No one enters or leaves the room during the speeches.
  - iv) One (1) minute of silence will be observed after each contestant speaks for judging.
  - v) Speakers are allowed to stay or leave the room after delivering their speech.

### *Finals*

- a) Open the finals with an introduction and inform the audience:
  - The rules have been reviewed with the Judges and earlier with all speakers
  - Inform speakers of the location of signaling device for timings
  - Ask for cell phones to shut off or silenced
  - Inform audience that exiting or entering the auditorium, photography or recording during speeches is not permitted.
  - Introduce the winners, one group at a time and invite them to the stage. Introduce each finalist speaker slowly and clearly.
  - Maintain one (1) minute silence between speakers to give judges time to complete voting.
- b) Upon completion of all speeches, ask judges to complete their ballots. At this time, the Chief Judge will collect and verify Time Record Sheets from timers. At this time the Judges will leave the auditorium for a private room to finalize the results.
- c) Invite the District Governor to the stage to address the audience for 5/7 minutes about Youth and other initiatives of Rotary Club.
- d) While the Judges are determining the results, call all finalists to the stage; introduce them again giving the names of the schools and clubs they represent. A short interview may be conducted at this time using the contestant's biographical information as a guide. Pictures may be taken at this time.
- e) Invite all semi-finalists and finalists to the stage for presentation of certificates, pictures and T-shirts.
- f) When the Judges return to the auditorium, collect the contest results from the Chief Judge.
- g) Announce results in reverse order; honorable mentions, a third-place winner, a second-place winner, and a first-place winner.
- h) Bring the winners back to the stage for pictures with District Governor, Contest Master, Chief Judge, Sergeant At Arms, Contest Chair and Co-chair.
- i) In closing, thank all who helped make the contest a success.
- j) Inform winners that an official prize distribution will be held at the District Conference on \_\_\_ etc.

## **Sergeant At Arms**

The Contest Chair/Co-Chair will appoint a Rotarian to serve as Sergeant At Arms.

### *Semi-finals*

- a) The Sergeant At Arms will call the meeting to order and invite the Contest Chair to the podium.
- b) Ensure rooms are set up and seats allocated for judges and timers.
- c) Brief NHS student appointed to assist the Sergeant At Arms on their role;
  - i) Usher contestants from their group in/out of the respective rooms.
  - ii) Announce names of speakers and topic of speech, slowly and clearly. They will not make any remarks or mention the name of the school or club that the speaker represents.
  - iii) Advise each speaker of the speaking area and the location of timer with signaling device.

### *Finals*

- a) The Sergeant At Arms will call the meeting to order and invite the Contest Master to the podium.
- b) Manage stage set up (desk/podium) and all amplification devices (fixed and portable).