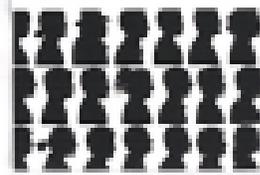
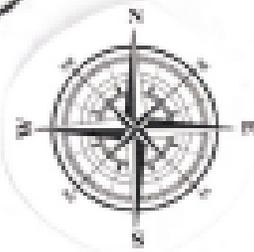


Rotary District 5520



4-Way Test Essay Contest



Rotary International District 5520 Four-Way Test Essay Contest

History:

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is The Four-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor (who later served as Rotary International president) when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy. This 24-word code of ethics for employees to follow in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with dealers and customers, and the survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy. Adopted by Rotary in 1943, the Four-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways.

Goal:

Our short-term goal to have every Club sponsor a Four-Way Test Essay Contest in the eighth grade of every Public and Private School in their geographical area depends on club participation. If every eighth grader in our District prepared a Four-Way Test essay, soon every High School student in our District would know about Rotary. Think of the positive impact on Interact Clubs, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Youth Exchange, Rotaract, and on the public image and the future of Rotary. The long-term goal is to develop a deeper relationship with your community's middle school by introducing the concept of the Four-Way Test in seventh grade. By establishing the Four-Way Test in the classroom as a useful tool for teaching ethics, one school year before the Four-Way Test Essay Contest ensures that the student not only can write a thoughtful essay but also experiences the value of integrating ethics into their everyday life.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY CLUB

1. Agree to sponsor the contest.
2. Identify and contact the appropriate school official (the lead English teacher, lead Social Studies teacher, Counselor, and/or After School program coordinator) for the eighth-grade class(es) and distribute Four-Way Test essay contest forms.
3. Review the contest rules in this document and on the District website: www.rotary5520.org
4. Appoint a committee to evaluate the best essays submitted by the teachers from each school.
5. Select the Club winner(s) and submit the first-place essay(s) to the District Four-Way Test Essay Chair by March 15, 2026
4. Recognize the Club winners, parents, and teacher(s) and award certificates and prizes.



RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY DISTRICT

1. Display the contest rules on the District website.
2. Provide cash awards for the District winners.
3. Appoint a committee to evaluate the winning essays submitted by the Clubs and select the District winners.
4. Display the winning essays on the District website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The winning essays from all participating District Clubs must be received by the District Four Way Test Committee Chair by March 15, 2026, to allow sufficient time for District judging, notifying the winners, and listing their names in the 2026 District Conference program.

Monetary awards District level: First Place - \$200, Second Place - \$100, Third Place - \$75. \$100 awarded to the teacher of the First Place winner. Club-level prizes to be determined by local club. Each club is encouraged to honor the local essay winner at a club meeting.

Four-Way Test Essay Contest Rules and Guidelines for Club

Original & personal work of the student. The use of AI to write the essay is not allowed.

500-1000 words, double-spaced.

The essay can be handwritten, typed, or composed on a computer. Please stress to the students that legibility assists readers when judging.

If the essay is in the language of the student's origin, a written translation must be provided.

Essay must be available to be published.

Must be approved by the student's parents.

Critical dates established and followed by all concerned for the conduct of the contest. The local school faculty performs initial screening of nominated essays. The most competitive essays (6-12) are then given to the sponsoring Rotary Club for final evaluation.

A committee of the sponsoring Rotary Club evaluates the essays in accordance with an established Evaluation Guide.

Finalists, parents, and teachers are recognized at a sponsoring Rotary Club function, and awards are presented.

Press release, with photo(s), submitted to local press.

The winning essay from each Club is forwarded to the Four-Way Test Essay Contest District Chair by March 15, 2026.

Four-Way Test Essay Contest District Chair: Sarah Jones (Del Norte-ABQ) Cell: (505) 280-0509 E-mail: newmexime@gmail.com

Rotary



2026 Rotary Four-Way Test Essay Contest

Student Information

(Open to all New Mexico & West Texas 8th Graders within the Rotary 5520 District)

Topic of the essay:

What is the Four-Way Test and how can I use each question to make better decisions?

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say, and do.

First, is it the **TRUTH**?

Second, is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Third, will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Fourth, will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Purpose of the essay: A written essay that explains the student's personal understanding of the "Four-Way Test" and how it relates to his/her life experiences and/or society. How does it influence what they think, say, and do?

***Please return your essay to your school contact by _____**

School Admin: Please return essays to _____

by _____.

Rotary



Rotary International District 5520 FOUR-WAY TEST CONTEST OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Club Contact

Name: Phone: Email:

Contestant name: _____

Parent's name: _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____ **City:** _____

Phone #: _____

Name of school: _____

Sponsoring teacher: _____ **City:** _____

Contestant Release and Certification Agreement

With my signature, I indicate my willingness to have the text of my essay reproduced in any form. If I should be the winner, I also agree to attend any award ceremony, if possible, including the District Conference April 9-11, 2026, in Santa Fe, NM.

Contestant Signature _____ **Date** _____

Instructions: This entry form, along with one copy of your essay, should be submitted no later than _____, to the local Four-Way Test Essay Chair. The Rotary Club _____ will submit the local winners by **March 15, 2026**, for District 5520's consideration.

Essay Guidelines:

1. Read, review, and become familiar with the Four-Way Test.
2. Write an original and personal essay.
3. Suggested minimum-maximum word count: 500-1000 words.
4. The essay can be handwritten or typed, double-spaced, and on single sides.
5. If written in a language of student origin, a translated copy must be provided.

Judging criteria: Although grammar, punctuation, and spelling are considered, thought and content are the main criteria for choosing a winner.

Attach one copy of your essay to the entry form.

(2 if original is in another language, with the English translation)