Packet for Rotary Clubs Areas 7 - 12
(Branford, Cheshire, Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Groton, Guilford, Hamden, Ledyard, Madison, Meriden, Middletown, Montville, Mystic, Naugatuck, New Haven, New London, Niantic, North Branford, North Haven, Norwich, Norwich Sunrise, Old Saybrook, Stonington's, Wallingford, Waterford, Woodbridge)

The Rotary Club of _____ presents

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

The Rotary Four-Way Test implores us to ask 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?**

RULES & GUIDELINES FOR SPEECH CONTESTANTS

Subject:

- **The speech challenge is to use the Rotary Four-Way Test to evaluate the ethics of a chosen topic.**
- Topics may include individual life experiences, current or historical events, societal or global issues, life situations, or problems. Topics may be serious or humorous, unique or commonplace.
- Speeches do not need to emphasize all Four-Way Test elements equally, but **must address each element and clearly explain, verbally, how each part of the Test applies to their chosen topic.**

Content

- Speech content must be original, prepared by the contestant, and not a variation of another product.
- Speeches may include quotations, statistics, and/or references to research or ideas from identified sources.
- No slides, videos, or projected images are allowed. Demonstration props or visual aids may be used, but should not be a central part of the speech (and are not required).

Requirements & Judging

- The **speech may not be read**, but **a few notes on 3x5 index cards are permitted** for the semi-finals only. Speeches may be practiced and delivered from memory. There will be no podium use at the Final.
- The speech must be **at least 5 minutes and not longer than 7 minutes in length**, or points will be deducted from the score.
- Speech contestants (for all contests) will be identified by number and not by name or school.

- A panel of judges will evaluate speeches based on their application of the Four-Way Test, the interest of the topic, the ethical arguments presented, and the effectiveness of delivery. **See the judging rubric for guidance.**

General Eligibility & Structure:

- Participants can be any grade level, from freshman to senior, and do not need to be in the Interact Club.
- The winner of our contest will advance to one of two semi-final contests and possibly the final contest, which will determine the winner of Rotary District 7980 (the four counties of Southern CT).
- Winners give the same speech at the semi- and final contests but can work to improve their original speech.

Contest Schedule:

- Our contest is for students from **school:**_____ and will be held at: **Date:** _____ **Time:** _____ **Location:** _____
- The winner of our club contest will then compete at the semi-final contest on:
  Date: March 20, 2027; Time: 10 AM – 12 PM
  Location: Slater Memorial Auditorium - Norwich Free Academy Campus, 108 Crescent St, Norwich, CT
- The District final contest will be at the Rotary District 7980 Assembly on:
  Date: May 22, 2027;Time:10:00 AM.
  Location: Mystic Marriott, 625 North Rd, Groton CT

Participation Certificates and Awards:

- The top two candidates from each of the two semi-final contests will continue to the final contest.
- The winner of the final contest will receive $500. The other three contestants will each receive $250.
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation (to verify this as a resume booster for college applications).

QUESTIONS: Contact *Teacher*_____, Room _____

or

***Rotarian School Contest Organizer* _____*at email*_____**

YOUR REGISTRATION FORM IS DUE to Teacher/School Organizer by:_____

Teacher/School Organizer, please submit the name of your finalist to your local Rotary Club no later than March 10th, along with the application and Photo Media Consent form.

Rotary District 7980

Four-Way Speech Contest

STUDENT REGISTRATION

School: _____Sponsored by Rotary Club of _____

SPEECH CHALLENGE

Use the Rotary Four-Way Test to analyze a problem, action, or attitude, and clearly apply each part of the Four-Way Test in your speech.

The Rotary Four-Way Test

Of all the things we think, say, and do, be certain:

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?

STUDENT DECLARATION

Please enter me in the Rotary Four-Way Speech Contest.

____I have read and understand the **Rules and Guidelines.**

____ I agree to participate in this contest and give my speech on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Location:** _____

____ I agree that if I win the contest, I will participate in the **District Semi-final competition** on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Location:** _____

____ I agree that if I am one of two finalists of the Semi-final competition, I will participate in the **District Finals** on:

Date: _____ **Time:** _____ **Location:** _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Publicity

____ I agree to allow my name, photo, and/or speech to be used in publicity for this event.

____ I do not want to have my ___ Name ___ Photo ___Speech used in publicity.

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

Student Name: _____ Year ___Fr, ___ So, ___Jr, ___ Sr

Home Address: _____

Phone(s) Cell: _____ Home _____

Email Address: _____

Do you check your mail regularly? If not, what is the best way to contact you? _____

Supervising Teacher: _____ Email: _____

Keep the Rules & Guidelines

Return this page to your Supervising Teacher by: _____

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST

- For each evaluation item, select one score from 1-7, with 1 = lowest and 7= highest. Check only one box/line.
- After completing all sections (Content, Organization & Delivery, and Effectiveness), add the numeric values from all sections.

Student # _____

JUDGE'S SCORESHEET							
	Scoring Check one box/category 1=Lowest, 4=Mid, 7=Highest						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Content *Did the speaker:*							
• Discuss all four elements of the Four-Way Test? Truth, Fairness, Goodwill, Benefit							
• Apply the Four-Way Test thoroughly to the topic?							
• Include helpful examples & Interesting ideas on the topic?							
• Show knowledge and insight about the topic?							
Organization & Delivery *Did the speaker:*							
• Speak with clear enunciation & good voice projection?							
• Create interest through enthusiasm for the topic?							
• Show thoughtful organization with a logical flow of ideas?							
• Include an engaging intro and convincing conclusion?							
Effectiveness *Did the speaker:*							
• Create a strong connection to the audience?							
• Create interest in the topic?							
• Develop a compelling analysis of the ethical issues for the topic?							
• Effectively demonstrate the value of the Four-Way Test for ethical analysis?							

Notes:

Rotary District 1700

The Rotarian Minute History

No.38 – August 26, 2025

1 minute to discover an aspect of Rotary history

Understanding the 4-Way Test

The **4-Way Test** is at the heart of Rotary ethics.

1. **Is it the truth?**
   This first question reminds us of the importance of honesty. Seeking the truth in our actions and words prevents misunderstandings, rumors, and injustices. It builds mutual trust.

2. **Is it fair to all concerned?**

   Rotary encourages loyalty, not only to friends and colleagues, but also to the community. Fairness and equity ensure balanced and lasting relationships.

3. **Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
   This dimension emphasizes social peace. Acting with kindness fosters understanding and prevents conflict.

4. **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**
   Finally, Rotarians aim for the public good. A decision must go beyond personal gain to serve the common good, the founding principle of our commitment.