

Are you a High School Student? Do you care about ethical behavior and standards?

**Take the Rotary 4-Way Test,
Apply it to real life and ENTER the Rotary Speech Contest
First Prize for the Florence-area winner is \$1,000!**

2026 Cash Prizes at District Level

1st Prize: \$3,500 2nd Prize: \$2,000 3rd Prize: \$1,500

The Rotary 4-Way Test

**Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

The choices for topics are endless...does Artificial Intelligence meet the 4-Way Test? How about social networking?
You pick the situation and speak about it at the Florence Rotary Club sponsored contest that will be held on:

Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the Florence Events Center

The top three finalists at the contest will present their speeches to a meeting of the Rotary Club of Florence at the Florence Events Center on Tuesday, April 7 at noon.

1st Prize for the local contest is \$1,000, 2nd Prize is \$750, and 3rd Prize is \$500. The finalist may also take part in a virtual "Speak Off" with other clubs in the area to determine who will attend the Rotary District 5110 Conference. Cash Prizes will also be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place finishers at the annual district conference, which will take place on Saturday, May 16 in Eugene, Oregon.

Contest Conditions: You must be a high school student (public, private, charter, or home-schooled) in grades 9-12. All speeches must be original and your own, must not be read, and may not be less than 5 or more than 7 minutes. Refer to the packet for additional guidelines and to learn how your speech will be scored.

You may refer to notes.

For more information, contact Mr. Orr at Siuslaw High School;
Ms. Wilson at Mapleton High School; or visit theflorencerotary.org.

To register, send your completed application to Meg Spencer at megspencer1818@gmail.com no later than noon on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.



4-Way Test Speech Contest

Student Information Packet

1. **THE PURPOSE** of the speech contest is to help youth, Rotarians and the community-at-large to more completely understand, encourage, and foster the principles of ethical behavior, Rotary and the objects of "Service Above Self."
2. **ELIGIBILITY** is open to all high school age students , grades 9 - 12.
3. **THE CONTEST** is sponsored by your local Rotary club.
4. **ENTRY FORM: (see attachment)** To qualify for the contest, entry forms must be received by the Sponsoring Rotary Club 4-Way Test Speech Contest chairperson.

5. RULES OF THE SPEECH

TOPIC OF SPEECH: The topic is at the discretion of the student, one that generally applies Rotary's 4-Way Test to an important issue in our everyday world:

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?

DELIVERY: The speech should be delivered in an extemporaneous manner. Notes will be permitted, but reading is discouraged. A memorized presentation is more impressive. Prompting from the audience will disqualify speakers.

LENGTH OF SPEECH: The speech should be not less than five minutes or more than seven minutes in length. Penalty points will be assessed if the speech length is outside these limits.

CONTENT OF SPEECH: The speech given by each contestant must be original in content and must show clearly the practical application of the Rotary Four-Way Test to the subject of the speech and the lives of the age-group of the contestant when applicable.

Contestants should write a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples and quotations. Humor and personal touches are appropriate. Examples of winning 4-Way Test speeches can be found on YouTube.

Winner advances to Rotary District Competition: Participants must be available for District competition in order to advance in the contest. The winner must commit to attend the District level competition on May 16, 2026 in Eugene, Oregon, should they win the club and area-level competition(s). Transportation and a supervising Rotarian will be identified to accompany the winner at contest site.

JUDGING CRITERIA — Same at all levels of competition

A total of 100 points is possible for a contestant to be awarded (or deducted) as follows:

CONTENT 0 - 40 points

Use of example. Theme/subject adherence. Human interest, appeal, and color. Clarity and expressiveness. Persuasiveness.

ORGANIZATION 0 - 10 points

Introduction. Logical development. Support of ideas. Smooth transitions. Conclusion.

DELIVERY 0-30 points

Voice control, articulation, enunciation. Body language (gestures, facial expression). Sincerity.

APPLICATION OF 4-WAY TEST 0-20 points POINT TOTAL max = 100

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

TIME PENALTY 1 point for each 15 seconds (or fraction thereof) that the speech is under 5 minutes or over 7 minutes. (Subtract points)

Rotary

DISTRICT 5110



4-Way Test Speech Contest Student Entry Form

Students who wish to compete in this year's contest must send their completed form to Florence Rotarian Meg Spencer at megspencer1818@gmail.com no later than noon on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Student's Name: _____

High School: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher/Coach (if applicable): _____

Student's Speech Topic _____

Student's Address: _____

Student's Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

If selected as the Club winner or alternate, I will be available to speak at the Rotary Club of Florence weekly meeting at noon on **Tuesday, April 7** at the Florence Events Center. I am also available for the District 5110 Contest on **Saturday, May 16 in Eugene, Oregon.**

I agree to abide by the rules of the Rotary International District 5110 Four-Way Test Speech Contest. ***I certify that this speech is my original work.***

Student Signature

Parent Signature

(print parent Name)

CONTEST RULES in BRIEF

ELIGIBILITY - Contestants may be a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior in public, private or home school.

LENGTH OF SPEECH - 5 to 7 minutes.

DELIVERY - Speech may be memorized or notes may be used, but reading is discouraged. Memorized is certainly more impressive. Prompting from the audience will disqualify speakers.

TOPIC - Rotary's current theme and how the 4-Way Test does apply to an important issue in our everyday world. The Rotary 4-Way Test asks the following questions:

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it BUILD GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Necessary information about the 4-Way Test may be found at www.rotary.org

Contestants should write a speech with facts, statistics, stories, examples and quotations. Add some humor and personal touches. At the District level of competition, contestants should not identify their Rotary Club sponsor. For reference, examples of past winners can be found on YouTube.

Contact Florence Rotarian Meg Spencer at megspencer1818@gmail.com or 541-999-2627 with questions.