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Four-Way Test Essay Contest 2019-20

Essay Submission Deadline: March 9, 2020

2019-20 ESSAY PROMPT

How Rotary's Four Way Test helps me confront or deal with the issue of failure?

All student essays should be written about this topic. We felt this topic was particularly appropriate as recent studies are showing that the younger generation is experiencing spikes in anxiety and depression stemming from difficulty in handling adverse situations. We are hoping the Four-Way Test can be a resource for students as they confront these issues in the coming years. We are also planning to change the essay prompt on a yearly or bi-yearly basis to keep the contest fresh and relevant to students.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

The Following is some important background on the Four Way Test. The source for this information is "The Story of the Four-Way Test" By Herbert J. Taylor (the full text can be found at <https://www.rotary5630.org/history-of-the-four-way-test/>). We encourage you to go to this web site and read the full story in Mr. Taylor's words.

The origins of the Four Way Test date back to 1932 when creditors of a near bankrupt aluminum company assigned the author of the Four Way Test, Herbert Taylor, to save it from further financial ruin. Competition in the aluminum industry was fierce. Mr. Taylor was looking for a way to distinguish his new company from the others, while at the same time achieving financial prosperity. Mr. Taylor decided that ethics and doing what was right would be the key to the turnaround and he penned these four simple questions that would guide him in his task:

- 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?

Mr. Taylor applied this test to every aspect of the way the company conducted business and his company ended up thriving, not only paying off all of its debts, but also paying dividends to its shareholders. From the depths of failure came an ethical test that is still applied over 85 years later.

Write an essay about your personal experiences and attitudes toward failure – whether it be an actual failure or perhaps a fear of failure that stops you from pursuing a goal or dream, how might Rotary's Four Way Test help you confront or deal with the issue of failure?

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Eligibility: Ninth Grade Students.

Format: Microsoft Word format will be used. The essay must be prepared for printing on white paper, size 8.5 X 11.0. The font will be either Century Schoolbook, Arial, or Times New Roman. Print size will be 12 point. Do not insert identifying information on any sheet except the cover sheet. Lines will be double spaced. Do not insert graphics.

Number of Copies: Essays (with cover sheet) should be e-mailed to the Rotary District 7390 Office - office@rotary7390.org. Club chairs without e-mail capability should mail their winning essay to the district office.

Essay Length: The essay must not exceed 1500 words in length.

Cover Sheet: A cover sheet must be attached to each essay. See the attached format for the Cover Sheet.

Original Work: The essay must be the original work of the student submitting the essay for competition. Team writing and the use of work written by other sources, even if foot-noted, is not authorized. Participating students will sign the pledge on the Cover Sheet stating that the essay is their original work.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY CLUB

1. Agree to sponsor the contest.
2. Identify and contact the lead English teacher for the ninth grade class(es) in the public and private schools in your geographic area. Also consider home-schooled students. If there is a resource or point of contact that is a source of information for home-schooled students, consider reaching out to these students, as well.
3. Appoint a committee to evaluate the best essays submitted from the students submitting essays. Consider either having the schools submit the essays to you through a contact teacher or have the students submit their essays directly to you.
4. Select the Club winner(s) and submit the first place essay(s) to the District office by March 9, 2020.
5. Recognize the Club winners, parents and teacher(s) and award certificates/prizes at the discretion of your Club.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ROTARY DISTRICT

1. Provide cash awards for the District winners.
2. Appoint a committee to evaluate the winning essays submitted by the Clubs and select the District winners.
3. Invite the winners, their parents, and teachers to the District Conference where prizes will be awarded to the top three students and the winner will present the winning essay.
4. Display the winning essays on the District website.
5. Provide monetary awards: First Place - \$500, Second Place - \$300, Third Place - \$100

HISTORY

The Four-Way Test Essay contest in District 7390 was initiated in 2006-07 by the Rotary Club of Mechanicsburg-North in the 9th grade at Cumberland Valley High School. The winner of their 2007-08 contest presented her essay at the District Conference and was well received.

The 2008-09 District Governor challenged other Clubs to have contests in their local schools and agreed that if multiple Clubs did have contests, he would have their winners vie for District honors and prizes. While only 3 clubs participated in 2009, the number has gradually increased each year. The first place winner presents their essay at the District Conference.

CRITICAL DATES AND SUGGESTED ACTIONS

Below is a suggested calendar for you to use in the conduct of your contest. The dates and times **in bold** are critical dates that must be complied with. The remainder are suggested time deadlines but your club can exercise discretion in how it conducts its contest and chooses its winner that is submitted to the district contest.

Fall 2018	Organize your Club's contest. Set deadlines, recruit a judging panel and introduce the Contest to the schools (public, private and home-schools). Find a point of contact at the school who will work with you to introduce the contest to ninth graders.
January 2019	Set a deadline at some time in this month for student submission of essays to your Club.
Early February 2019	Pick a date (preferably prior to February 18) to honor your Club's winning essay writer(s), his or her parents and teacher. Be sure to space the deadline for essay submissions and the Club meeting to give yourself, and your judging panel, sufficient time to evaluate the essays and notify the winner(s).
March 9, 2020	Last date for essays to be submitted to District Office.
April 15, 2020	District Four-Way Test Committee announces District winners.
March 2, 2020	District Conference – Winner reads his/her essay.

CONTEST EVALUATION GUIDE

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>High Lights of the Functional Area</u>
FOCUS	20%	How the author displayed awareness and understanding of the purpose of the essay.
CONTENT DEVELOPMENT	20%	How well did the student display the story line consistent with the purpose of the Essay.
ORGANIZATION	20%	How well did the author present a skillful pattern on the narrative presenting key points.
STYLE	20%	How well the student uses control of the language/ literary devices/ sentence/paragraph structure.
SUBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT	20%	Evaluator's overall assessment of the essay.
TOTAL:	<u>100%</u>	

Rotary

District 7390



Rotary Four-Way Test Essay Cover Sheet

This sheet will be attached to each essay submitted

How Rotary's Four Way Test helps me confront or deal with the issue of failure?

Student's Name _____

Student's Teacher _____

Student's School _____

Local Rotary Club Sponsor _____

Student's Home Mailing Address _____

Authorized E-mail (may be student or parent/guardian) _____

Student's Home Telephone Number _____

I declare that this essay is my own original work and its ideas are mine and mine alone. I understand the Rotary Club of _____ and Rotary District 7390 may publish this essay in whole or in part and I consent to their so doing. There are _____ words in this essay.

Student Signature

Parent Name (Print)

Date

Parent Signature

ESSAY CONTEST EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Student's Name: _____

Evaluation Score (maximum of 20 points per element):

FOCUS: _____

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

STYLE: _____

EVALUATOR'S ASSESSMENT: _____

TOTAL: _____

ESSAY CONTESTANTS FINAL TABULATIONS

<u>Student's Name</u>	<u>Evaluation Scores & Rank</u>
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____
9. _____	_____
10. _____	_____
11. _____	_____
12. _____	_____

For Immediate Release
Rotary Club of _____
Contact _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

The Rotary Club of _____ is pleased to announce the winners of its annual Four-Way Test essay contest for ninth grade students. The Four-Way Test is a set of four questions that Rotarians use to assist in the conduct of their personal and professional lives. The questions are: “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?” The theme of this year’s contest was “How Rotary’s Four Way Test helps me confront or deal with the issue of failure?”

The Club recognized three students from _____ High School who were recognized and presented with monetary awards of _____, _____ and _____. The winners are:
1st place – List Name
2nd place – List Name
3rd place – List Name

With 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographic areas, Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation support local and international projects that help people in need and promote understanding among cultures. For more information about the Rotary Club of _____, and to read the winning essays, visit www.rotary7390.org.

Suggested Photo Caption:

The Rotary Club of _____ awarded prizes to the winners of the Four-Way Test Essay contest and recognized their teachers. From left to right: _____