Rotary District 7390

FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH CONTEST GUIDELINES AND RULES

Of the things we think, say, or do:
Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

PARTICIPATION: Contestants must currently be in attendance (in either grade 10, 11 or 12) at a public or private high school, charter school or home schooled within Rotary District 7390 (Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, or York County). No student may be a contestant in more than one club contest in any one year. More than one club may recruit contestants from a high school shared with another club. Nothing in our rules prohibits clubs from developing their own procedures, requirements, and/ or guidelines for their contest. Contestant Entry Forms must be turned into District 7390 before participation.

SUBJECT: The speech may not be profane, obscene, unpatriotic, or racist. If a contestant or coach has any doubts at all, they should clear their speech with the Contest Chair for the next level where they will speak. The decision of the Chair is final. The topic must be specifically subjected to The Four Way Test and must be **affected throughout the body of the speech** and is not to be reserved for opening or concluding statements.

SPEECH TIME: Each speech must be greater than, or equal to, five (5) minutes in length and less than, or equal to, eight (8) minutes in length. Penalty points will be deducted from the contestant's score at the rate of two (2) points for each 15 seconds or fraction thereof that a contestant either runs over the eight-minute maximum or under the five-minute minimum.

SCORING: Contestant scores will be based on the following point system.

- **Content 0-20 points:** Introduction, originality, organization, conclusion
- **Delivery 0-20 points:** Voice control, articulation, enunciation, diction, body language (gestures, facial expression)
- **Incorporation of the Four Way Test 0-30 points:** Total integration of Rotary's Four Way Testthroughout the entire speech
- **Impact 0-30 points:** Overall appeal and impact, persuasiveness

USING NOTES: Contestants may use notes at the club level contest. At the mid-level contest, only ONE 3 x 5 (non electronic) card will be allowed for notes. Props will not be allowed at the mid-level contest. Notes and props will not be allowed at the district finals. Audience participation shall be considered a prop.

PUNCTUALITY: Any speaker who does not show up in time for the drawing or speaking position will be the first speaker if he/she shows up before the contest begins. If a contestant appears after the contest has begun, he/she will be disqualified. If the contestant is going to be 15 minutes late, for a valid reason and calls the Chair before the starting time, the mid-level coordinator has the option to delay the start of the contest up to fifteen minutes. A stay may not be invoked if its use penalizes another contestant.

DISQUALIFICATION: Contestants will be disqualified if they arrive after a contest has begun or if their speech is determined to be profane, obscene, unpatriotic, or racist. Contestants will be disqualified if they use any props. If due to unforeseen circumstances, the contestant is going to be late and calls before the starting time, the mid-level coordinator or District Chair has the option of delaying the start of the contest up to fifteen minutes.

ADVANCING: The District will offer a Mid-Level Competition. The score of each contestant will be used to determine who advances to the district finals.

FINAL WINNERS: A First Place, Second Place, and Third Place winner will be selected at the final District competition.. Corresponding prize money will be $1,250 for First Place, $750 for Second Place, and $500 for Third Place. Runners up will be awarded $250 each.

JUDGES AND TIMEKEEPERS: A minimum of three judges and a timekeeper will be used at each level of this contest. Club contest chairs will select the panels at the club level. The person running the mid-level will select the panel for the mid-levels. The District Contest Chair will make the selection for the District Finals. The majority of judges may not be Rotarians. Judges should be limited to judging one level of our contest each year. All judges should have a good knowledge of public speaking. The Four Way Test and its application should be furnished to the judges and timekeeper at least two weeks before the contest. These rules may be waived in an emergency if no other qualified persons are available.

Scoring, described on page 1, is as follows:

- **Content 0-20 points -** Introduction, originality, organization, conclusion
- **Delivery 0-20 points -** Voice control, articulation, enunciation, diction, body language (gestures, facial expression)
- **Incorporation of the Four Way Test 0-30 points -** Total integration of Rotary's Four Way Test throughout the entire speech
- **Impact 0-30 points -** Overall appeal and impact, persuasiveness

Judges must total points for each speaker in the TOTAL POINTS column, subtract any penalty points, and then enter the NET POINTS. Next, the judges will rank the speakers. The NET POINTS will be used as a basis for the ranking. THERE MAY BE TIES IN POINTS BUT NOT IN RANK!

Final judging will be as follows: The winner will be decided by rank order. If the contestant has more #1 rankings than any other contestant, they win. If a winner cannot be chosen in this manner, the judges will total the ranking earnings (1, 2, 3) and the contestant with the lowest total of rankings earned will be declared the winner. If a winner can't be chosen by either of these methods, then the decision will be made based on the total net points. The speaker with the highest total will be declared the winner. If no clear winner can be chosen by the above means, the decision will be made by a vote of the judges. Any contestant receiving a majority vote of the judges will be declared the winner.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Score keeping of the contest, at each level, must be considered and kept confidential. However, the Chair may give a coach or speaker their scores but not give them the scores of any other contestants.

ANY PROTEST RELATIVE TO THE CONDUCT OF A CONTESTANT, OR THE OPERATION OF A CONTEST, AT ANY LEVEL OF THE CONTEST, MUST BE MADE TO THE CHAIR OF THAT PARTICULAR CONTEST BEFORE THE WINNER IS ANNOUNCED. THE DECISION OF THE CHAIR SHALL BE FINAL.

PROCEDURES FOR JUDGES:

1. Judges should have a full understanding of the rules, scoring and ranking process.
2. Using the scoresheet provided, please enter points for each speaker.
3. Total/tally points for each speaker after each has spoken.
4. The timekeeper will track penalty points for each speaker and will provide this information to the judges after the last speaker has spoken.
5. Judges then must subtract penalty points from total points.
6. After all speakers have a NET SCORE, please rank the speakers in order of 1(first), 2(second), 3 (third), etc. You may have ties in points but not in the ranked order.
7. Judge score sheet will be collected by the mid-level chair after all speakers have been ranked.

Rotary District 7390 4 Way Test Speech Contest Chairs

Mike Handshew (Elizabethtown) – mrhandshew@gmail.com or 717-585-9724

Mid-Level Coordinators

Coming Soon

Rotary District 7390 Administrative Office

Melissa Kopp-Smith – office@rotary7390.org or 717-854-7842

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