

Rotary District 7450
Roger Taylor Rotary Speech Contest
based on the 4-Way Test
2022-2023

Governing Principles and Rules - FOR STUDENTS

SUBJECT

Any topic which a contestant feels is timely, interesting, and important may be used for the contest speech as long as it is not profane or obscene. If a contestant or coach has any doubts at all about the speech topic, contact the Contest Chairman for the next level where he/she will speak. The decision of the Chairman 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 concluding statements only.

THE ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST
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?

GENERAL

Contestants must be currently in attendance at a public or private high school, charter school or home schooled (Grades 9-12) within Rotary District 7450. No student may be a contestant in more than one club Contest in any one year.

DISQUALIFICATION

Contestants will be disqualified if they arrive after a contest has begun or if their speech is determined to be profane or obscene. 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 Contest coordinator has the option in delaying the start of the contest up to fifteen minutes.

PRIZES

All club prizes are at the discretion of the hosting Club. Semi Final prizes will depend on the funds available. District Finals winner will receive a \$1000 cash award. Second and third place winners will receive awards based on funds available.

SELECTION of Contestants moving to Semi Finals and Finals:

Each Club in the district may send ONE or TWO students from each high school they are sponsoring to the semi-finals. The number of Semi-Finals is determined by the expected number of club contests. The winners of each Semi-final contest will advance to the Finals.

JUDGING

Point judging will be based on the following:

CONTENT	
Practical application of the 4-Way Test 5 points for each point covered—all four points should be covered	0-20
Uses examples from peer group experience	0-8
Human interest appeal and color	0-8
Clarity and expressiveness of language and vocabulary	0-8
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS FOR CONTENT	0-44
ORGANIZATION	
Introduction: captures audience attention and establishes major theme of the speech	0-8
Development: ideas presented, supported and explained in clear logical order with smooth transitions	0-8
Conclusion: emphasizes major theme in the speech, leaving the audience with a clear, concise message or point of application	0-8
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS FOR ORGANIZATION	0-24
DELIVERY	
Clear enunciation of words; limited use of unnecessary expressions i.e., “uh, you know, OK”	0-8
Good vocal projection, voice expressiveness, tone and pace	0-8
Good eye contact and rapport with the audience	0-8
Relaxed yet commanding use of posture and gestures	0-8
SUBTOTAL OF POINTS FOR DELIVERY	0-32
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS	0-100

TIMING

Each speech must no less than five (5) minutes and no more than seven (7) minutes in length. Penalty points will be deducted from the contestants score at the rate of two (2) points for each 15 seconds or fraction thereof that a contestant either runs over in the seven minute maximum or under the five-minute minimum.

SPEAKER'S NOTES

- Speakers may use whatever notes they feel necessary at the school/Rotary club level.
- Only one 3 x 5 card will be allowed for notes at the Semi-Final contest although memorization is encouraged.
- Notes will not be allowed at the District finals.
- Audience participation shall be considered a prop and thus not allowed.

SPEAKING AIDS **(note - not applicable if virtual)**

Lecterns and microphones must be available for the speaker use, if they so choose, at the Semi-final and Final contests. If a microphone fails to operate properly during the speech the contestant will have the option of starting over, continuing on with the present microphone, or starting over using a hand-held microphone located at the podium.

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 chairman before the starting time, the mid-level coordinator has the option of delaying the start of the contest up to fifteen minutes. A stay may not be invoked if its use penalizes another contestant.

