

# Rotary District 5300

## Four-Way Test Speech Contest Judging Procedures

### Contest Rules

- 1. Topic:** The theme for the 2025-2026 Rotary year is “Unite For Good”, which will also be the topic for this year's Four Way Test Speech Contest. RI President, Francesco Arezzo, calls on Rotary members to be a force for unity in a world increasingly divided by politics, geography, and ideology. Through service projects, Rotary brings together people of every background — across races, religions, and professions — in a shared mission to do good in their communities. It encourages Rotary members to leverage human connections to expand their global impact through service and innovation. Any topic related to this theme will be acceptable, provided that it is not profane, obscene, unpatriotic or racist. If a contestant or coach is in doubt about the appropriateness of a topic, he or she should check with the Contest Chair for the level where they are preparing to speak. The decision of the Contest Chair will be final. In the speech, the topic **must be specifically subjected** to the Rotary Four-Way Test. This must be during the body of the speech and is not to be reserved for the introductory or concluding statements only.
- 2. Length:** Speeches must be at least 6 minutes and no more than 8 minutes in length. Penalty points will be subtracted for time infractions at the rate of two points for every fifteen seconds or fraction thereof that a contestant's speech runs either under the 6 minute minimum or over the 8 minute maximum.
- 3. Props:** No props are to be used. Audience participation will be considered a prop. Penalty points will be subtracted for use of props or encouragement of audience participation at the rate of two points per infraction.
- 4. Speaker Aids:** Lecterns and microphones may be available for speakers to use if they so choose.
- 5. Using Notes:** Contestants **may speak from notes at the Club and Group level competitions.** At the **Regional level, only a single 3x5 card both sides may be used.** At the **District level, notes will not be allowed.** Use of notes will result in disqualification.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Three judges and one timekeeper will be used at each level of competition. Judging will be on a 100-point system, broken down into four criteria categories as follows:

- 1. Personal Qualities (0-15 points)** - This includes appearance, poise, personality and attitude.
- 2. Material Organization (0-40 points)** - This includes subject adherence, use of Four-Way test tenets, theme, flow, logic, color, etc.
- 3. Delivery and Presentation (0-30 points)** - This includes voice control, articulation, enunciation, diction, animation, sincerity, etc.
- 4. Overall Effectiveness (0-15 points)** - This includes overall appeal, impression, persuasiveness, etc.

### Scoring Procedures

On their individual score sheets, judges will total points for each speaker, subtract penalty points (if any) and enter net points. They then rank speakers 1 through 4 by net points.

**If a tie exists on a judge's score sheet**, the first tie-breaker is points scored in "Material Organization."

**If a tie still exists**, the second tie-breaker is incorporation of the Four-Way Test. The winner of the contest will be decided by *cumulative rank order*. *If a* contestant has two or more #1 ranking on the judges' score sheets, then he or she is the winner. *If* this does not occur, then each contestant's ranking will be totaled and the speaker with the lowest total ranking earned will be declared the winner.

**If a tie still exists, the first tie-breaker is total net points**. The contestant with the highest total of net points on the judges' cards will be declared the winner. *If* a tie still exists, the second and final tie-breaker will be by *vote of the judges*. The contestant receiving a majority vote of the judges will be declared the winner and the judges' decision will be final. (Note: Although places [2nd, 3rd, etc.] will not be announced, the 2nd place finisher should be noted on the Results Sheet. In the event that the winner is unable to attend and compete at the Group Level Contest, the 2nd place finisher will be given the opportunity to represent the club there.)

## **Judge's Scoring Sheet**

### THE FOUR-WAY TEST 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?

### **Instructions**

1. Judges will seat themselves apart from each other and not communicate about their evaluations of speakers until after the final awards have been made.
2. Each speaker will be awarded points in the four categories listed below. Record points immediately after each speech. (The contest Chair will ask if judges are ready before calling the next speaker.)
3. Columns should be added and rankings computed after all speeches have been given and the judges have left the room.

# Individual Judge's Scoring Sheet

THE FOUR-WAY TEST  
Of the things we think, say or do

<b>Items Judged</b>	<b>Speakers in order of appearance</b>					
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Personal Qualities (0-15points)						
Material Organization (0-40points)						
Delivery and Presentation (0-30points)						
Overall Effectiveness (0-15points)						
<b>Subtotal of points:</b>						
Penalty Points (if any) reported by Timekeeper.						
<b>Subtract from subtotal:</b>						
<b>Net points:</b>						
<b>Ranking:</b>						

# Time Keeper's Sheet

## THE FOUR-WAY TEST Of the things we think, say or do

Speaker	Beginning Time	Ending Time	Elapsed Time	Penalty Points
<b>1</b>				
<b>2</b>				
<b>3</b>				
<b>4</b>				
<b>5</b>				
<b>6</b>				