

# ROTARY

## SPEECH AND ESSAY CONTEST

Roy Disney once said, "When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier." Values are principles, standards, or qualities you consider worthwhile or desirable. Values will vary from person to person because they depend on your personal judgment. They describe the core of your character and the purpose for which you live. They are used as guiding principles, rules if you will, to direct your behaviors and to give your life purpose.

Like individuals, organizations such as Rotary also work to define their core values as a guide to decision making and purposeful action.

Core Values - Rotary is a service club made up of individual members who come together to embrace a common mission of service. The quality and success of any service club is directly related to the quality and success of its members. In addition to the character, values and abilities of its members, a club's success is also directly related to the nature of its core values and its commitment to them.

1. Service: To be a Rotary club committed to supporting the positive development and success of deserving individuals, organizations and causes.
2. Leadership: To be a Rotary service club where the individual and collective voice and leadership abilities of all club members are actively engaged in accomplishing the club's mission and priorities.
3. Integrity: To be a Rotary club committed to supporting others, founded on the principles of forthright, ethical, values-driven service to our community and the world.
4. Fellowship: To be a Rotary club with a vital and uplifting energy, where members appreciate and enjoy each other's friendship as well as the club's spirit of camaraderie.

### Guiding Principles

Rotarians are guided by four fundamental ethical questions characterized as The 4-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?”

### Purpose of the contest:

1. Students will evaluate and advocate for the Rotary 4-Way Test as a meaningful guide when considering personal intentions, decisions, and actions.
2. Seventh grade students have a choice of writing about the value and application of the 4-Way Test in either an expository essay or a personal narrative. Eighth grade students will write and deliver a persuasive speech attesting to the value and application of the 4-Way Test.
3. In both the seventh and eighth grade contest options students are asked to think about the nature and importance of truth, fairness, good will, friendship and benefitting others in their lives.
4. The primary goal for both the paper and the speech is to communicate a coherent, insightful, well-crafted expression of the importance, nature, and challenges of living a life of integrity enhanced by service to others.

## Contest Options for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders – Personal Narrative or Expository Essay

**The Rotary theme for 2014-15 is “Light up Rotary”.** Although not required to do so, students may opt to incorporate into their speech or essay the concept of changing lives through service to others.

### **Personal Narrative**

Think about the guiding principles of Rotary as defined in the 4-Way Test. **Tell a true story** about a time when you or someone you know was faced with a decision or a challenge. Tell if the person followed the principles of the 4-Way Test in making the decision or responding to the challenge and in what way(s) and why you feel those principles led to a positive outcome. Or if the person did not follow these principles, tell in what way(s) and why do you think the outcome might have been more positive if they had been followed.

### **Expository Essay**

Think about the guiding principles of Rotary defined in the 4-Way Test. Write a paper **to explain** how you would see these principles working as an effective guide to your beliefs and actions as well as those of your peers.

## Contest Opportunity for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders – Persuasive Speech

### **Persuasive Speech**

Think about the guiding principles of Rotary defined in the Four-Way Test. Give a speech **to convince** your peers that these principles are ones that they should follow in their decisions and behaviors.

### 4-Way Test Contest Expectations

#### Length:

Essay – 300-400 words

Speech – 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 minutes (may be given from memory, but note cards allowed)

#### Content:

The work of each contestant must be original; it must explain how it relates to his/her life experiences and/or society in general.

### Contest Judging Guidelines

Insightful ideas and content

Organization and cohesiveness

Genuine voice and connection to the topic

Word choice and fluency

Adherence to contest expectations