



# Rotary “4-Way Test” Essay/Speech Challenge

## SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP 2021

1<sup>st</sup> place \$1500\*, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$1000\*, 3<sup>rd</sup> place \$500\* & Honorable Mention(s)\*

### Rotary 4-Way Test

*Of the things we think, say, or do:*

*Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to ALL concerned?*

*Will it build GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*

*Will it be BENEFICIAL to ALL concerned?*

## Guidelines for High Schools & Students

**Students will create an original short essay based on the Rotary “4-Way Test”**

Apply the Rotary 4-Way Test to a real-life situation or challenge (see instructions on next page). As a guide, essays should be 500-600 words, about 5 minutes when read aloud. High school seniors from Gaston County or attending public, private, charter or home school in Gaston County are eligible. Students must be endorsed by their school as demonstrating the 4-Way Test in their lives.

**Students submit essays to their school representative** (Scholarship Coordinator or School Counselor). **Schools submit their 4-5 nominees\*\* via email\*\* by Friday May 14, 2021 at 5 pm.**

\*Each high school may select up to 4 nominees, and schools with more than 200 seniors may submit 5 nominees.

\*\*Schools submit finalists’ essays and signed Student Identifying Forms via email (Word, pdf, or scanned) with school name and “4-Way Test Scholarship essay” in subject line. Send to hconyers5@gmail.com (Harrison Conyers), queencyhart@gmail.com (Stephanie Hartman), and copy slh4559@yahoo.com (Sharon Heinrich). Please send each essay (no names) and student information form separately as attachments. A reply confirmation will be sent to the counselor. If needed, an initial review process will select 10-12 finalists. Students and school counselors will be notified of results via email. For questions, or if a student or counselor has not been notified, please contact a scholarship coordinator. Finalists are asked to RSVP to confirm their participation in the speech contest event. The spirit of the Rotary 4-Way Test is to be fair to all concerned.

**Finalists will present their essays Sunday, May 23, 1:30 pm, at Schiele Museum**

\*First place winner will be awarded at least a \$1500, 2<sup>nd</sup> place at least \$1000, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place at least \$500. Honorable mentions (2-3) may be awarded at Judges’ discretion. Gastonia East, Gastonia Evening, Gastonia, Belmont & a Rotary District grant. Please note that due to COVID -19 the presentations may be conducted in a virtual format or in a limited in person participation. More details will be provided closer to presentation date, in accordance with state and CDC guidance.

**For questions:**

Harrison Conyers, hconyers5@gmail.com 704. 685.1675

Sharon Heinrich, slh4559@yahoo.com 704.860.7736

Liaison for Gaston County Schools: Rhonda Galloway (GCS Central Office, Osceola Ave, Gastonia, NC)

Liaison for charter or private schools  
will be identified by each school for  
scholarship coordinator.



## Rotary “4-Way Test” Essay/Speech Challenge

The Rotary 4-Way Test Scholarship Challenge began in 2012 by Gaston Breakfast Rotary Club. It is an opportunity for Gaston County high school seniors to learn about the Rotary 4-Way Test and to apply it to their lives as they write and present an original essay/speech. The “4-Way Test” was created by Herbert Taylor, and guides Rotarians in their personal and vocational life: *Of the things we think, say, or do: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to ALL concerned? Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIP? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

### WHO

High school seniors from Gaston County who attend public, private, charter, or home school are eligible. **Each high school selects up to 4 nominees (up to 5 if more than 200 seniors).** Home or boarding school students submit their essays directly. **Finalists (10-12) will present their essays as a speech and winners will be awarded scholarships.** Scholarships are directly to a post-high school educational institution (college, university, vocational, or technical training).

### WHAT

**Students create an original essay/speech, applying the Rotary 4-Way Test to an important real-world issue in everyday life and relationships. Successful essays clearly refer to and integrate the Rotary 4-Way Test. Essays must be original, reflecting a student’s personal thoughts and real-life experiences. All essays should be respectful, appropriate for diverse audiences (consider peers as your audience).** Use stories, facts, examples, quotations, and if appropriate, relevant statistics. Feel free to add humor. Think about these questions to jump-start the creative process (not an outline): Consider a situation when someone did or did not abide by the 4-Way Test - how did you use that experience learning opportunity? How does Rotary’s 4-way test challenge you in your everyday life and your future? How would you live it out and encourage others to do the same? Who’s lived out the 4-way test in a way that inspired you?

**Essay format is to be single-spaced, 12-point type, approximately 500-600 words (about 5-6 minutes as a speech when read at a comfortable pace in a natural speaking voice). Please number pages (you may include a title) but do not include any student name or identifying information on the essay itself. DO NOT list or mention your name, school, city, or other information in your essay that could personally identify you or your family or potentially bias the judges.** In the spirit of the 4-Way Test, each essay is accompanied by a Student Identifying

Information Form with signatures from a parent/guardian and their school personnel testifying to a student's character as reflecting the Rotary 4-way Test. Students' personal information will be kept separate from essays. Students' names and schools will not be shared with judges until after their final decisions. This process is designed to be fair to all concerned. When finalists present their speeches in person, notes may be used. Students should be comfortable enough with their essay so they can speak directly with their audience, not read it like a script. No extra points are given for memorization. The attached judging rubric will be used by the judges (see page 5).



## Rotary "4-Way Test" Essay/Speech Challenge

The Rotary 4-Way Test Scholarship Challenge has historically been supported by 5 Rotary clubs serving Gaston County: Gaston Breakfast, Gastonia East, Gastonia Evening, Gastonia, & Belmont, and a matching grant from Rotary District 7680. In the Greater Gaston area, Mt. Holly, Cherryville & Kings Mtn. have active Rotary clubs.

### Rotary 4-Way Test

*Of the things we think, say, or do: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to ALL concerned?  
Will it build GOOD WILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to ALL concerned?*

### **What is Rotary International?**

Rotarians are "**People of Action**" who have been making a difference in the world for 116 years. The first Rotary club began in 1905 in Chicago. There are now more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in nearly 200 countries, a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers. Rotarians share common values, fellowship, and a commitment to "**Service Above Self**". We are diverse, and each club is unique. Our new vision statement inspires us: "*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves*".

**Rotarians (Rotary members) engage in service in their own community and unite in service with Rotarians and communities around the world to *Do Good in the World.***

"The **Object of Rotary** is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster: 1) The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; 2) High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society; 3) The application of the idea of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life; 4) The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service."

The **Rotary Foundation** (which has received the highest rating from Charity Navigator) supports Rotary projects for “Doing Good in the World” in six major Areas of Focus: 1) Peace & conflict resolution (including Rotary Peace Fellowships), 2) Disease prevention & treatment (including End Polio Now), 3) Clean water and sanitation, 4) Maternal & child health, 5) Basic education & literacy, 6) Economic & community development

**For more information about Rotary International and to learn how you can become involved with Rotary in your community, ask a Rotarian, or go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)**

## Rotary “4-Way Test” Scholarship Challenge

### Student Identifying Information Form    Essay # \_\_\_\_

*Students: Complete and sign “release form” portion (with parent/ guardian signature). Submit your essay and this completed form to your school representative by April 6. Schools will select 4-5 essays as their school nominees and submit them by April 5. Each essay is to be accompanied by a completed Student Identifying Information Form (with parent/guardian & school signatures, including character certification). Up to 10-12 finalists will be selected by April 8 to present their essays on April 25 at the Schiele Museum in Gastonia. Students and school counselors will be notified via email of their status. Invitations will be e-mailed to students selected as finalists. Students are asked to RSVP. Refer to “Guidelines for Schools & Students” (page 1) and “Gaston County Scholarships.com” for instructions.*

### **RELEASE FORM** (To be completed by student and parent/guardian – signatures are required)

*By signing this release, I indicate my willingness to reproduce or record my essay or speech, and to be published in any form. I affirm my willingness to participate, as my schedule permits, in speaking engagements as requested by Rotary Clubs or district. Please note due to COVID-19 the guest list will be very restricted to comply with state and CDC safety protocol and recommendations.*

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #1: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_    Phone#2: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTER CERTIFICATION** (To be completed by school principal and counselor)  
*This student has been selected as a school nominee in the "Rotary Four-Way Test Challenge". If his/her essay is a finalist, s/he would be recognized as living his/her life consistent with the Rotary 4-Way Test.*

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Principal Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

School Counselor Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please write all names & email addresses clearly so that you will receive  
timely follow-up communication about this application.  
Rotary 4-Way Test Scholarship Challenge  
Essay/Speech Judging Rubric (adapted from Rotary District 6600)**

**Student Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rater** \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria** (Rate 1-5, 1=poor, 5=superior) **Points** **Comments**

**Effectiveness of Theme (4-Way Test)**

Personal Knowledge & Experience of 4-Way Test

Application of 4-Way Test to "Real-life" Issue(s)

*E.g., 5=Clear understanding of 4-Way Test, well-integrated in essay*

**Content**

Originality, Clarity, Documentation, Reasoning

Accuracy, Sufficiency, Relevant to peer audience

**Organization**

Purpose, Introduction, Transitions, Conclusion

Unity of essay/speech, Flow of ideas & message

**Language**

Clarity, Expressiveness, Grammar, Pronunciation

Appropriateness (relevant for peers/professionals)

**Attitude / Overall Presentation** (*speech only*)

Confidence, Responsibility, Maturity, Sincerity

Ability to relate content appropriately for audience

**Nonverbal Presentation** (*speech only*)

Eye Contact, Gestures, Posture, Appearance

**Verbal Presentation / Voice** *(speech only)*

Clarity, Volume, Quality, Pacing

**Does this essay clearly relate to the 4-Way Test?**    *Directly*    *Indirectly*    *No*

**Does this essay merit special recognition or honorable mention?**    *Yes*    *No*

Overall Essay Comment(s):

Overall Speech Comment(s):

Notes:

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Time limit met:** yes / no – under/over

*Judges will rate individual speeches, make notes for each essay/speech, then confer on final decisions.*