



DICTIONARY PLUS ETHICS PROJECT

Promoting Ethics – Pursuing Peace – Providing for Children

SUGGESTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR DISTRIBUTING DICTIONARIES

The Dictionary Project has become an annual event in most clubs in District 5400.

We now have the opportunity to share successes and to develop the most effective way to make this project assist 1) in the education of our children, 2) in **introducing the Four Way Test** as a tool to use in personal and later in work-related decisions, and 3) and also to plant the seed for future Rotarians.

The Dictionary Project provides an excellent opportunity to help the Governor reach two of his goals, to promote ethics and provide for children.

Suggestions and Guidelines for the Dictionary Plus Ethics Project

(Note: Please distribute dictionaries in the first few months of the year so students have the books as long as possible.)

Before Distribution:

- 1- **To make the ethics portion of this project work well**, your club should **provide copies** of the **4-Way Test** to every third grade teacher and the administrator of the school **several weeks before the distribution occurs, if possible.**
- 2- **Request of the teacher and principal** that the **4-Way Test be presented and discussed with the students** before the dictionaries are distributed.
- 3- Make sure that the principal and teachers know that we want the opportunity to spend a few minutes in the classroom distributing the dictionaries.
- 4- **Extra effort: Ask your PR chair to seek publicity for the event in the media.**

During Distribution Emphasize the 4-Way Test:

- 5- On distribution day, introduce yourselves to the third graders as Rotarians and tell them briefly what Rotary does in the community and in the world. Show them the Rotary wheel and tell them you are from a local club.
- 6- Explain that you are there to give them a personal dictionary of their own to use in class and later to take home.
- 7- Show them where to write their name in their dictionary.
- 8- Draw their attention to the bookplate that contains the 4-Way Test and read with them each of the four things we think, say or do. Tell them that this is how Rotarians decide how to make good decisions and be fair to everyone. Invite them to use it in their lives too. Give an example of how you use the 4-Way Test.
- 9- Have them turn to page 171 and look at the definition of **integrity**, the last word in the first column. Read the definition with them and tell them that the 4-Way test helps Rotarians have **integrity**. (Note: The word ethics has a definition that is probably a bit too abstract.)
- 10- **If time allows**, show them the Gazetteer section and while they are looking through it, tell them to turn to the last page in the book. Explain that this is the longest word in the English language. You can have fun with them by asking if they would like to have that word on a spelling test.
- 11- Be sure to leave at least a couple of extra dictionaries with the teacher for new students that join the class during the year. Also give the teacher a contact for more dictionaries if more are needed later.
- 12- Answer questions as you go, but be sure not to take up too much time.
- 13- Take new club members as part of your team and have everyone who goes participate in the presentation if possible.

We want to develop these suggestions and Guidelines into a document that can be distributed to each incoming club president at PETS each year and we would appreciate comments and examples to improve it.

Please give us your ideas and also any problems you have encountered so we can make that information available to the incoming presidents as well.

Send comments to Gene Day (sgday@cablone.net or 208-410-2599) or Kathy Stone (kathystone@clearwire.net or 585-11240).