



Rotary District 7910

4 Way Test Essay Contest

Each year, Rotary District 7910 sponsors an essay contest and brings the final results to the participants at the District Conference. Many were surprised at the quality of the writing.

There were 6 judges who determined the winners. Spelling & grammar were not part of the judging, it was the thoughts and depth of the content that were important. **Of the 53 clubs in District 7910 there was representation from about 25%.**

As an active Rotarian, Nick Storrs has run 6 essay contests for high school students involving the 7 high schools in the North Central Massachusetts. Financial awards were presented – three of the first-place winners read their essays for all to hear and newspaper articles were written, many making headlines in the local newspapers. This high school essay program is entitled the “Laws of life”, with **each essay having a central core of focus on a “law” or “principle” of life** . This is truly a wonderful patriotic event with virtues being applauded.

This year we are inviting clubs throughout District 7910 to be involved and to involve the youth in their service communities in the Rotary District 7910 Essay Contest. Our Contest Co-chairs of this year’s event are Diane Bemis of the Rotary Club of Littleton and Nick Storrs of the Rotary Club of the Montachusett Area. By slowly going through the directory booklet, our chairs will be reaching out to you and working to generate excitement for far more essays. All principals will receive this message, with your help, after all, they’re the educational leaders from our region.

Diane & Nick are more than anxious to have assistance – they are hoping that multitudes of students who attend high schools in our area will submit essays. If it’s a Rotary essay contest, then each essay **must** have a relationship with the Rotary Four Way Test. The essays will be submitted to the Rotarian judges, who will whittle the list down to 5 students’ submissions, which will all be read out loud for all to hear in the amphitheatre.

Club presidents, those interested in quality essays, students who want to write a “from the heart” essay, Rotarians who have an interest in writing --- please, we need you to talk it up and help us to build the numbers. Please engage your Literacy Chairs, Youth Chairs, Interact Chairs and Community Service Chairs to increase the number of participants to not only submit essays, but build awareness of the 4 Way Test and as a result Rotary and the important work we do.

Essay Contest

THE 4-WAY TEST OF THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

- 1. Is it the truth?*
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?*
- 3. Will it build good will and better friendships?*
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

Goal

To encourage students to think about the meaning of "The 4-Way Test." This can be done by writing their thoughts in an essay which expresses clearly and creatively how the principles of the test impact their daily lives and is focused on one of the questions of the 4 Way Test.

Essays should be at least:

Open for grades 9-12. A minimum 2 page typewritten copy, double-spaced, 1 inch margined essay is to be submitted, along with the signed statement below.

Who

All high school (9-12) students are eligible. **FAMILY OF ROTARY IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE but the submission MUST be original and MUST be the students.**

Awards:

Cash Prizes will be Awarded at the District Conference and will be selected by a district review team. The cash awards will be distributed by the District Governor at the District Conference or by a representative from the District. Four Cash Prizes will be awarded- \$400, \$300, and three (3) \$100 prizes..

Schedule

Essays should be completed and submitted by Friday, May 26, 2011. Schools In District 7910 are invited to participate with students at each school level providing essays.

All entries should be submitted to:

District 7910 4-way Test Contest
C/O Nick Storrs
900 Lancaster Ave
Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462

Judging Criteria

Judging will be based on utilization and application of the principles of the Four-Way Test.

---- CUT ALONG THIS LINE AND ATTACH TO YOUR ESSAY SUBMISSION -- --

My signature below affirms that I am familiar with The Four-Way Test and I understand that my essay must clearly apply these principles in order to be eligible for this contest.

Signature of Student