**STUDENT GUIDELINES**

**The Four-Way Test Essay Contest Sponsored by Centennial Rotary Club of Grand Rapids**

**Essays must be returned to David Marty (**[**davidmarty@gmail.com**](mailto:davidmarty@gmail.com)**) no later than December 15, 2021**

**WHAT IS THE FOUR-WAY TEST?**

Your essay must address the Rotary 4—Way Test. The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do is as follows:

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?

**The Four-Way Test** is a stimulus to self-appraisal. It is rather a springboard to voluntary self-improvement. It aims to encourage the ethical instincts in every person and constitutes a simple and practical guide for people of all cultures.

**The Four-Way Test** has inspired safe driving programs, fire prevention campaigns, crime and drug reduction activities; it has been the subject of countless secondary school essays. It has been translated into more than 100 languages.

**PRIZES -** There are three levels of competition and prizes: **1. The Centennial Rotary Club** provides three prizes for our local club winners ($150, $100 and $50). **2. Regional winners** are selected from winning local club submissions, each receiving a cash prize of an additional $150. **3. The District winner** is chosen from the six regional winning entries and will receive the $1,100 Grand Prize ($1,250 for the Overall Winner, includes regional award of $150)

**ELIGIBILITY** - Open to all students in the final two years of high school.

**TOPIC -** The essay may treat any subject of interest to the student, specific or general. For example, one might choose a topic relating to world peace, to a special friendship, to the environmental issues in general or to some issue in particular, to a choice of life-style, to a choice of occupation. Creative use of one’s imagination is encouraged. Topics from previous contests include “College Tuition”, “Life is Full of Choices”, “Should you Multi-task?”, “Censorship,” and “Cyber-Bullying.” Here is a link to an earlier winner for reference: <https://rotary5580.org/Stories/4-way-test-essay-contest-winner>

**SUBMISSION – Each entry of 500 to 1,000 words in length is to be submitted as an** electronic Word or PDF copy, double-spaced document, along with the Student Information Form. (attached here)

**JUDGING CRITERIA** - Judging will be based on utilization and application of the principles of the Four-Way Test. Essays received that do not incorporate these four principles will not be considered. Student creativity, organization, language and grammar usage will also be considered as part of the overall judging criteria.

Questions? Contact David Marty at 259.8215 or davidmarty@gmail.com

**2020 Four-Way Test Essay Contest Student Information Form**

**Student Name: Grade:**

**Student Address:**

**Student Email & Phone Number:**

**School Name & Location:**

**Sponsoring Rotary Club: CENTENNIAL ROTARY CLUB OF GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA**

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

Student Name Submission Date

**Rotary Club Contact:** David Marty

**Club Contact Email & Phone Number: David Marty (**[**davidmarty@gmail.com**](mailto:davidmarty@gmail.com)**) 218.259.8215**

**Submit this document along with your essay (500-1,000 words) to David Marty (**[**davidmarty@gmail.com**](mailto:davidmarty@gmail.com)**) no later than December 15, 2021**