

2021 Four-Way Test Competition

BCPS High Schools

The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley and The James W. Houck Foundation, Inc., in partnership with Baltimore County Public Schools, conduct The Four-Way Test Contest as an ethics enrichment partnership in area schools each year. The Four-Way Test, which has been a guiding principle of Rotary International since 1943, guides its members to ask themselves these four questions when making any decision, or evaluating after-the-fact whether it was best decision possible:

- **Is it the truth?**
- **Is it fair to all concerned?**
- **Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
- **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and school closures, this year's contest will be conducted virtually.

Students in Grades 9-12 from the following high schools are invited to participate (past First Place winners are ineligible):

Dulaney

Franklin

Hereford

Loch Raven

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Simple Steps for Student Participation

1. Prepare a short oratorical speech of between 4-6 minutes (minimum and maximum) relating to the Four-Way Test. Note cards are allowed and the speech does not have to be memorized, however it should not be read. The subject matter content will not be judged, however the chosen theme should have human-interest appeal, with well-organized, persuasive points and clear, expressive delivery including volume, grammar, gestures, and rapport with a virtual audience.
2. Record a video of the speech and upload to YouTube. Provide the link for your school's panel of judges to evaluate.
3. Once the Top Ten student winners have been selected, the counselor/teacher must email YouTube links to the assigned Rotary Club judges **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2021**. Use "[Name] High School Rotary FWT Submission" in the subject line. Include the student's name, school, grade, and teacher or counselor's name in the body of the email.
4. The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley will judge entries based on the following criteria:
 - Demonstrated understanding and application of the Four-Way Test (40 points)
 - Content, organization, and analysis (20 points)
 - Conclusion (5 points)
 - Delivery and engagement (15 points)
 - Overall impact (20 points)
 - (Less deductions for under/over time or reading, up to 20 points)
5. Winning students will receive a certificate and cash prizes: First Place \$200, Second Place \$125, Third Place \$75.
6. All schools' first-place winners will then compete against each other for an additional club award of \$300 (\$500 total) and move on to the District-level. Runners-up will receive an additional \$100 (\$300 total). Finalists will be announced at an awards program on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021** (details TBD and shared at a later date).

Questions? Please contact us at info@huntvalleyrotary.org

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Message to Teachers and Parents

January 2021

Thank you for encouraging your student's or child's participation in this year's virtual Four-Way Test competition!

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do is used by Rotarians worldwide as a moral guide for both business and personal relationships, and ethical decision-making. Developed by Herbert J. Taylor in the 1930's, it has stood the test of time. Especially given current national turmoil, we firmly believe that "character counts" and that children closely observe and follow the behaviors of adult role models in their lives.

Most recently, our club partnered with Captain Rick Rubel, Distinguished Military Professor of Ethics at the U.S. Naval Academy to develop a program, "Character Development and the Rotary Four-Way Test." Please visit our website to watch this enlightening 30 minute video recording.

Rotary is an all-volunteer service organization with nearly 1.2 million members worldwide. Locally, in addition to sponsoring the annual Four-Way Test competition, our club supports Adopt-a-Road cleanup, Operation Warm, NCR Trail parks at Ashland Road and Monkton Station, youth exchange and leadership development programs, and other community service activities. We have virtual Zoom meetings from 12-1 pm on first and third Wednesdays each month with diverse and fascinating guest speakers, which anyone is welcome to join. Our non-profit James W. Houck Foundation, with community sponsorship support, funds the Four-Way Test program and Operation Warm (due to the pandemic, a record 277 new winter coats were delivered to elementary and middle school-age children in need this year).

If you are interested in learning more about membership in Rotary or supporting the Houck Foundation with a sponsorship or donation, please visit our website at <https://huntvalleyrotary.com> or send us an email at support@huntvalleyrotary.com. We would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Keith Armington, President, Rotary Club of Hunt Valley

Bill DePauw, President, James W. Houck Foundation, Inc.

