

2021 Four-Way Test Competition

BCPS Middle 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 6, 7 and 8 from the following middle schools are invited to participate:

Cockeysville

Hereford

Ridgely

2021 Four-Way Test Competition

Simple Steps for Student Participation

1. Write a short story of between 500 to 750 words (minimum and maximum) in Word using Times Roman 12 font. Each student should work independently and communicate the core values of the Four-Way Test. Be creative and have fun!
2. Email the Word document to your teacher or counselor.
3. Your teacher/counselor will email all submissions **by grade** to the school's assigned Rotary Club judge(s) **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2021**. Use "[Name] Middle School Rotary FWT Submission" in the subject line. Include the student's name, school, grade, and homeroom teacher's name in the body of the email.
4. The Rotary Club of Hunt Valley will judge entries based on the following criteria:
 - All four questions must be included
 - How the four questions of the Four-Way Test are addressed
 - A title to tie the concept together
 - Creativity, spelling, grammar, and punctuation
5. Winning entries will be announced at an awards program on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021** (details TBD and shared at a later date). Students will receive a certificate and cash prizes: First Place \$100, Second Place \$75, Third Place \$50.

Questions? Please contact us at info@huntvalleyrotary.org

2021 Four-Way Test Competition

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 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.

