



District 5170  
Richard D. King  
Youth Speech Contest

# RULES OF COMPETITION

## Eligibility

Contests are open to student speakers in grades 9 through 12 who attend a local public, private, or home high school within District 5170. Contestants may be sons or daughters of members of Rotary Clubs in District 5170.

Students may compete in only one club level competition. Once a student participates at one club, they are ineligible to compete at another club.

## Original Work of Student

The speech must be the original work of the contestant.

## Theme

The theme for all levels of the speech contests shall be Rotary International's theme, named above (the theme changes each year). The theme must be clearly identified in the speech and need not be the topic of the speech. The theme can be found on the [home page of the Speech Contest website](#).

## Topic of the Speech

Each student may choose any topic they feel is timely and of interest, as long as the content of the speech relates to the current year's theme and incorporates **at least** one of the principles of the Rotary Four Way Test.

## Rotary Four Way Test Principles

Rotarians have adopted, as a guide for every day living, the following four principles.

Of the things we think, say, or do:

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?

## Time Limitations

Speeches are to be between **four and five minutes** in length. **Important Note: Timing begins when a contest first speaks, not after the contestant's salutation to the District Youth Speech Contest Chair (DYSCC) or audience.** A penalty of 2% shall be deducted from each of the judges' scores for every 30 seconds (or fraction thereof) the contestant speaks either under four minutes or over five minutes.

## Use of Props, Prompters, and Notes

In order to encourage participants at the **CLUB LEVEL ONLY**, the contestants may use a smart device only to **GLANCE** at their notes OR **one** 3" x 5" notecard.

As the contestant advances to the Area/Regional/Final competitions, they **SHALL NOT** use props, displays, prompters, or **smart devices** of any kind. Notes may be used only if they are on **one** 3" x 5" card.

## Identification of Speaker or School

There shall be no explicit or implicit identification of the speaker or of the speaker's school in the content or in the title of the speech, the attire of the contestant, or by any other means whatsoever.

**EACH CONTESTANT IS EXPECTED TO KNOW AND TO FOLLOW THE RULES AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE CONTEST. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THESE RULES SHALL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE SPEAKER.**

The District Youth Service Chair will make the final decision whether or not a violation has taken place.