

The 4-Way Test In An Online World

It is instructive to keep the 4-Way Test in mind when engaging in any social media or other online activity. The values inherent within this simple moral code, created by Rotarian Herbert J Taylor, in an era well before the advent of computers, stand the test of time.

Below are some simple examples of how the 4 Way Test might apply.

The 4-way test of the things we think, say or do (online):

Please feel free to consider your own examples and how you might apply the 4-Way Test to your online activities.

TEST	YES	NO
Is it the truth?	Verifiable facts about Rotary & Rotary projects Reports on Club activities Shared press releases from Rotary International	Conflicting Personal opinions Exaggerated claims Unverifiable statistics
Is it fair to all concerned?	Sharing good news stories about other Clubs activities Promoting relevant causes	Self-promotion and bragging Putting other people down Multi-level marketing
Will it build goodwill and build better friendships?	Sharing stories with others who may benefit Helping to connect people Compliments & encouraging words Liking, commenting on & reposting positive Rotary stories	Personal attacks Racist, sexist & discriminatory remarks
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?	Online donations and sharing information on Rotary causes to friends and associates Participate in Rotary polls or requests feedback Support your Club, district & RI online activities by engaging & interacting	Spamming Personal tirades Activities which involve conflicts of interest

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