

★ ESSAY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION ★

(DIASPORA)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Most of our *Governor-General's Achievement Awards* (GGAA) *Nominees* demonstrate outstanding aptitudes and have received recognition at various levels for their achievements. In addition to these successes, the GGAA Secretariat considers nominee's **viewpoint** on matters of national consequence to be of critical importance.

With this in mind, each Nominee is invited to share their thoughts, in response to the (related) 'discussion question' below. Nominees must use every opportunity to ensure that their **points**, when responding to the question posed, are substantial and of the highest calibre, thus distinguishing him / her as a deserving candidate for one of His Excellency's prestigious Awards.

During the 2017 "*Governor-General's Achievement Awards*" interview segment, nominees will be given a discussion question of national relevance to respond to as part of the selection criteria. This question would have been pre-approved by the GGPE Advisory Board for their age category.

The nominee may take along written reference points to assist them during their response before the interview panel.

AGE GROUP CATEGORIES	DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
<i>Under 35 Years</i>	<i>From your perspective, how can we make Jamaica a safer place for women and children?</i>
<i>Over 35 Years</i>	<i>With crime and criminality on the rise, how do you recommend we curb it?</i>

★ TIPS FOR THE NOMINEE – GETTING READY ★

The quality of your presentation and the points you make matter! Here are some suggestions about preparing your discussion points for the interview to help ensure that your communication is clear, relevant and concise.

1. **Do not tell us what you think we want to hear.** Your audience does not have a “perfect response” in mind. The aim is to learn about your perspectives on an issue that is of national relevance.
2. **Be yourself.** Show that you are confident in your views without being offensive.
3. **Use a natural voice and style.** Although it is always important to use proper grammar, punctuation and diction, do not go overboard in trying to impress anyone. Use words and a style that you are comfortable with and that is appropriate for the topic and for someone who is trying to communicate clearly and logically.
4. **Do not be overly informal.** Your presentation is being assessed by a cross-section of individuals. Express yourself in the best way you know how but remember that this is an interview for which appropriate conduct and delivery of expression is expected.
5. **Create an outline that includes prompts.** Prompts will help you ensure that your ideas are not overlooked and your points are made. Prompts should get your mind focused to make you want to tell us what you think about something important that affects Jamaica, land we love. Your presentation is your opportunity to do this. **Your outline / points may be left with the panel at the end of the interview.**
6. **Organize your thoughts.** All good presentations have a beginning, a middle, and an end. Introduce your idea, provide examples and details in support of your idea, then come to a conclusion at the end.
7. **Develop your ideas.** Although your response time is limited, developing your ideas completely is very important.
8. **Take your time.** Get it right. Prepare beforehand. Do not rush through the process. Give of your best. Your story is your own!