

Paragraph 1.

Hook:

- America is a country whose roots are stained with the blood of the innocent.

3-4 Sentences of Historical Background

- Thomas Jefferson's eloquent words in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created equal" was a contradiction and an insult to nonwhites.
- The fact remains that our nation's legacy is tied to racism and the cruel institution of slavery.
- Africans were held against their will, treated inhumanely, and worked without compensation so that the rich white elite could maintain their status in America.
- The enslaved worked the cotton plantations and cultivated the most prominent and profitable export the country produced.
- Cotton and slavery brought great wealth to Southern planters as well as the economic juggernaut of the North.

Thesis Statement:

- I believe A SYSTEM AS MORALLY WRONG AND CRUEL AS SLAVERY LASTED FOR SO LONG IN THE DEMOCRATIC UNITED STATES because it **was (1) extremely profitable, (2) the law of the land protected this oppressive system, and a (3) racist culture emerged to justify it.**

Paragraph 2:

Extremely Profitable – 3-4 sentences

Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin

- Sped production
- Slavery spread
- Demand and Price of cotton increased
- American South now produced two thirds of the worlds cotton
- Cotton brought in more revenue than all other American exports COMBINED

The North:

- The rise of textile mills and factories
- Manufactured, Shipped and exported cotton
- Northern bankers and lenders loaned Southern planters' money to buy land and more slaves

Paragraph 3:

The law of the land protected this oppressive system

- Initially the Constitution protected the importation of new slaves until 1807.
- Even after the abolishment of the save trade, Africans were still being smuggled due to lax enforcement of the law,
- The domestic slave trade flourished. Slaves were sold and traded mainly to large plantation owners if the deep south.
- The Constitution promised that federal armed forces would put down slave rebellions
- The Fugitive Slave Act is passed to appease the South and halt secession. The Fugitive Slave Act required that all escaped slaves, upon capture, be returned to their masters and that officials and citizens of free states had to cooperate or else face legal consequences.
- White liberty and black slavery were etched into the highest law of the land (Segway.)

Paragraph 4:

Racist Culture

- Talk about what racism means to you
- Talk about how planters used Africans black skin and non-Christian religion to justify lifetime bondage
- Cultural myths about blacks
- From slavery to mass incarceration (Opinion)
- Institutional racism (Jim Crow Laws, segregation police brutality, mass incarceration, inequitable school financing, laws passed to oppress and hold a group of people down.
- Deprived of basic human rights and dignity
- White Supremacy; Maintain status, **control**, an expression of **power**,

Paragraph 5:

- Restate Thesis using different words
- 1-2 Sentences on Slavery's impact on the economy (Profitable)
- 1-2 Sentences on the law of the land protected this oppressive system
- 1-2 Sentences on Racism
- 1-2 Sentences Tying it all up