The Introductory Paragraph

a) Use a theme extracted from your thesis (and present in the novel)

Slavery became a profitable but controversial enterprise during the 1700s and 1800s around the world.

b) Narrow to literature

This controversy spread rapidly and gradually invaded the minds of the American public. While the debate over slavery raged in American political arenas, it also became a heated topic in the literary works of the 1800s.

c) Narrow to the literary work(s) you are using

Mark Twain expresses his views on the subject in his American classic, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

d) Narrow to the character, motif, or idea in the novel

Twain’s character, Jim (a black slave), embodies this argument in his struggle for freedom.

e) Narrow to your thesis statement

Twain uses Jim to illustrate the evils of slavery.

Slavery became a profitable but controversial enterprise during the 1700s and 1800s around the world. This controversy spread rapidly and gradually invaded the minds of the American public. While the debate over slavery raged in American political arenas, it also became a heated topic in the literary works of the 1800s. Mark Twain expresses his views on the subject in his American classic, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. Twain’s character, Jim (a black slave), embodies this argument in his struggle for freedom. Twain uses Jim to illustrate the evils of slavery.
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Your entire paragraph: