Sample Introduction to an Essay in History

Year 9 History

**Instructions:**

Read the below sample essay introduction crafted by Mr. Johnson and see if you can identify the key aspects of any good introduction in History: Hook, Frame the Question, Relevant Context, Thesis statement and Structure of Essay. Use a pen to pull out each component and then attempt to answer the questions below.

**Question:**

To what extent can violence be morally justified in the pursuit of improving society?

**Sample Introduction:**

On September 11th 2001 19 Muslim terrorists hijacked four 747s and successfully crashed three of them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States. This moment went on to fundamentally shift the geo-political reality of the 21st Century. From an historical perspective this event raises two interesting questions. First, how could such a small group of individuals have such a large impact on the world? Secondly, is there any way to justify these acts of violence or are they simply categorically evil? Margaret Meade once said that it is only small groups of committed citizens that change the world but what if that small group decides to use violence to change the world for what they see is “for the good”? One interesting test case for this question comes in the movements for racial equality in the 20th Century: the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the resistance to Apartheid in South Africa. While both of these movements were largely non-violent, they each had small portions that advocated and resorted to violence to force the government to end segregation. Should we condemn these groups for their violent actions or should we applaud them for their righteous goal of equality? The Black Panther Party was famous for their campaign to use force to protect poor blacks from police brutality, so it could be argued that violence is an appropriate response to oppression. Despite the early success of the Black Panther Party, violence cannot be morally justified because it creates a cycle of violence that can only be solved through acts of tolerance, as shown through the collapse of the Black Panther Party and the failure of the Spear of the Nation to end Apartheid.

**Questions to Answer:**

1. Does Mr. Johnson think violence can be morally justified?
2. What are the three main points he is going to use to support his answer?