

Comment 1:

This is kind of weird in the middle of the sentence. It really interrupts the flow. And who said it? You can get around this by paraphrasing. How about this as an alternative: "Fewer than 3,000 Southerners owned more than 100 slaves in 1860, yet the pro-slavery ..."

Comment 2:

I love that you're getting in these details. Don't be afraid to paraphrase, though. Save the quotes for the juicy stuff.

Comment 3:

This is a GREAT question. Best to avoid rhetorical questions in a history paper. Had you answered this question with what you think, you would have had your thesis statement. However, I'm not seeing a thesis statement in this first paragraph at all.

Comment 4:

How do we know it wasn't financial?