To what extent was fear of white violence the main reason for the migration of black Americans to the North?

Paragraph 1- Introduction

Paragraph 2- White violence- lynching of black Americans was commonplace in the South. Black Americans were beaten/crippled to punish them and to intimidate others. The Ku Klux Klan bombed churches, schools and other meeting places /burned crosses to intimidate black Americans. Masked Klansmen marched through the streets of towns and cities carrying posters threatening black Americans with punishment and warning others to leave town.

Paragraph 3- Jim Crow Laws. Segregation. Southern states enforced segregation of the races through Jim Crow laws. These laws affected all areas of life – education, entertainment, housing, travel, health, leisure, marriage, and work. Typically, facilities for blacks were far inferior to those for whites.

Paragraph 4- Jobs in the North, opportunity. The North viewed as the promised land. In the South blacks suffered from discrimination in jobs and were only employed in low paid unskilled work. During the First World War workers were in great demand in Northern factories and steel works. Agents from various industrial sectors arrived in the South, enticing black men and women to migrate North by paying their travel expenses. Wages in the Northern factories were typically double those received by most black workers in the South.

Paragraph 5- Promise of a better life. Publications (such as the Chicago Defender) published train schedules and lists of jobs to persuade Southern blacks to migrate North. Other publications (such as the Pittsburgh Courier and the Amsterdam News) published editorials and cartoons showing the promise of moving from the South to the North. These promises included better education for children, the right to vote, access to various types of employment and improved housing conditions.

Paragraph 6- Conclusion