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**Research Question:** What are the most important causes of the Great Migration?

**Thesis Statement**: The main causes of the Great Migration include racism, little to no job opportunities and lack of education.

When a case of black murder came upon, “it was never investigated or nothing”. (-Leon’s Story), or even considered. More or less, nobody cared. This is why, Blacks never came to the police for protection because they knew that most of them were brutal. They also knew that they were not protected under the law. This is just one of the many reasons that blacks began to take the “Great Migration” to the north. The main causes of the Great Migration include, racism, little to no jobs opportunity, and a lack of education.

First, education in the south for African Americans was overlooked and discarded. “All you needed to know was how to read and write your name… (Leon’s Story). As a result, blacks could never attempt to speak up for their rights. Whites knew that depriving blacks of their education would keep them low and predictable. They knew that education could open up opportunities. In the dim chance of you being able to attend school, you had to walk. The schoolhouse was very small and didn’t have a heat. “That was the way we ate because we didn’t have no kitchen…the white kids had all of that” (-Leon’s Story). These kids were so desperate to just know the little things that they put up with these things. On top of that, you could be harassed by a bus of white kids. In Leon’s Story it states “They’d throw stones and talk trash” because they were taught and raised up on Negroes not having any feelings. Overall education in the south was not valued.

Next, blacks chose to flee the south because of the Racism. A popular racist group was called the K.K.K aka “K Klux Klan” (Leon’s Story). This group  was “very dangerous and would kill you” just for being black. The K.K.K tried various attempts of Genocide. These people were thought to keep African Americans in order. Next, lynching was very common in the south. People who lynch and run (–One Way Ticket). Lynching is when you are hung to a death this method was meant for crime punishment but whites used it to torture blacks.  However, it wasn’t just the K.K.K it was also public establishments. In order for a black to purchase something they had to enter through the back and wait for the cashier to aknowledge them. And if white was intimidated by their presence they would be without hesitation be evicted. “Leon’s Story”. In the end, Blacks were threatened in many ways in the south by racism.

Then, with a large number of blacks in the south there where limited job opportunities. African American were not educated so they performed manual labor on farms. Black families lived on a farm owned by whites. They had a system called “sharecropping” (Leon’s Story). Sharecropping was supposed to be the farmer and the owner sharing the crops for a pay. But, in reality Blacks got much less then half of the crops. However it was just enough to feed their families. Then to keep the blacks on the farm the whites made sure that they kept blacks in debt. (Leon’s Story) Blacks owed so much money that they ended up passing it down year after year. It was a never ending cycle, Blacks started calling it a tradition to take on their parents debts. If you sharecropped you got no salary. Yet blacks were uneducated and they trusted the farm owner they never suspected any trickery. In the north hey could get paid 1.25 a day in a factory. This is why African Americans fled to industrial cities like New York, St.Louis , and Chicago.

To conclude, there are many factors as to why African Americans migrated to the north. Blacks never got an clear chance to live a simple life in the south. It took 30 years after the Great Migration for blacks to realize that they had rights too. All the things that were keeping them down, K.K.K, No education and little jobs were just old news. The great migration was very important because without it I nor the rest of the black community would have been able to be successful and thrive. I would not be able to have a future if there wasn’t a great migration.