**Excellent use of structure and *Evidence* in the Essay**

Essay Question: How were the American colonies different in the North vs. the South?

While the Southern colonies developed a predominantly rural society based on agriculture, the Northern colonies developed a predominantly urban society based on commerce and trade. In the South, the colonists staked their livelihood on raising a single cash crop. ***For instance, farmers in Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina grew tobacco, while those in South Carolina and Georgia grew rice and later indigo***. The plantation economy led to a primarily rural society where plantations developed instead of towns. In contrast, a diverse commercial economy prospered in the North. In New England and Middle colonies, ***for instance, grinding wheat, harvesting fish, and sawing lumber became thriving industries.*** Furthermore, unlike the South where plantations developed instead of towns and only ***one major port, Charles Town,*** existed, the North developed prosperous towns with schools, houses, churches, meeting house, and ***myriad trades and businesses and it boasted Boston, New York City, and Philadelphia.*** In the 1700s, due to the nature of the different economies, the South was dominated primarily by landowners, whereas the North was by merchants.

The economic distinction caused the social structure of the Southern and the Northern colonies to differ greatly. As plantation economy in the South prospered and the population of white indentured servants declined, the Southern colonists became ever more dependent on the use of African slaves. While African slaves made up of more than half of the population in the South, ***they led a grueling existence and were often reduced to the level of merchandise. John Ferdinand Smyth in Planters and Pioneers recalled the appalling conditions of slaves in Southern colonies, "He (the slave) is called up in the morning at daybreak, and is seldom allowed time enough to swallow three mouthfuls of hominy, or hoecake, but is driven out immediately to the field to hard labor, at which he continues, without intermission until noon…"*** Even worse, ***courts did not consider slave owners guilty of murder for killing their slaves during punishment***. In contrast, Northerners had less incentive to turn to slavery than did Southerners since their economy was driven by commerce rather than agriculture. Nevertheless, slavery still existed in the North. But the enslaved people in Northern colonies enjoyed ***greater legal standings*** than those in the Southern colonies. ***For instance, they could sue and be sued, and they had the right of appeal to the highest courts***. Hence, Southern colonies were more dependent on Africans slaves and often treated them more harshly than the Northern colonies.