In your plan, you need to decide on:

1. What will the topic of each paragraph be? What are my three arguments? As these are then the three topics of the three paragraphs. (you can have more than three arguments and three paragraphs, just do the same for more)
2. What supporting evidence or information will you provide for each major point you make?
3. What is the most logical order in which to make your points so they develop and support your argument?

How to write an introduction

You could try to use the wording of the prompt (question) in your first sentence, but remember to make it a sizzling start! Really sell your opinion from the start.

‘Is the 26th January an appropriate date to celebrate our national identity?’

you could begin your response with:

1. this sentence is your opening sentence that states your argument in response to the prompt

It is hard to see how one could ever think that celebrating our national identity on the day that our Indigenous brothers and sisters lost their sovereign rights to their land, lost their family and their right to practice their culture is an appropriate date. Australian’s must move into the future of reconciliation and change the date that we celebrate Australia Day.

2. This sentence sums up your contention (view)

Use clear transition or connecting words to help organise your ideas and to make it easier for your teacher to follow your arguments. Ie.
For example: Firstly, Secondly, In contrast to, In addition, As a result, etc.
They are your three points of view or arguments about the question/topic - and they then become your three paragraphs. One argument per paragraph.

Firstly, (named Survival Day or Invasion Day by Indigenous Australians)

Secondly, (The 26th January celebrates the arrival of the British, not the formation of our nation)

Finally,

Sum up the question again in your closing sentence
The body of your essay

Topic Sentence
Evidence
Explanation
Linking and closing sentence

So, if you had just written the this introduction - this is how it would work...

It is hard to see how one could ever think that celebrating our national identity on the day that our Indigenous brothers and sisters lost their sovereign rights to their land, lost their family and their right to practice their culture is an appropriate date. Australian’s must move into the future of reconciliation and change the date that we celebrate Australia Day. Firstly, (THIS ARGUMENT BECOMES YOUR FIRST PARAGRAPH AND ARGUMENT) to many Aboriginal people there is little to celebrate on January 26th and it is a commemoration of a deep loss, referred to as Invasion Day. Secondly, (THIS BECOMES YOUR SECOND PARAGRAPH AND ARGUMENT) The 26th January celebrates the arrival of the British, not the formation of our nation. Finally, (THIS BECOMES YOUR THIRD PARAGRAPH AND ARGUMENT) ..... (now add in one more sentence that sums up your contention again) The date of January 26th is not inclusive of our multicultural nation. Are you proud of celebrating our identity on a date that has so much controversy surrounding it?  

rhetorical question

A well-written introduction is the generator of a successful essay. It should deal closely with the issues in the topic that your essay will concentrate on. The opening paragraph must provide a clear and definite response to the topic.

An efficient introduction should:
• clarify and define key terms and phrases by discussing the main issues that will be tackled.
• articulate your main argument in a confident and assured manner - show a strong sense of authorial control.

Do not:
• simply repeat the topic in your opening sentence.
• simply agree or disagree.
• disregard the topic altogether and rewrite a pre-planned essay that is largely irrelevant to the topic.
• begin your introduction with: “In my opinion this statement is true...”, “I agree with the above statement”, or “In this essay I will talk about ...”, and other such like expressions. Such phrasing is both unnecessary and begins the essay on a bad note.

A well-considered and thoughtful introduction should contain at least four to five key ideas that can be developed into substantial and intelligent paragraphs in their own right. Also, intelligent discussions explore the topic in depth. In other words, they do not reduce the statement or question to an either, or, scenario. Both sides will be developed, explored and discussed in some depth.

Paragraph 1.

TOPIC SENTENCE
To many Aboriginal people there is little to celebrate on January 26th and it is a commemoration of a deep loss, referred to as Invasion Day.

Based on the first argument I had written in my introduction: however, if I just put that as my topic sentence, it would not be complete, as it does not refer back to the question... which means, I am not answering the question.
So, I need to think back to the key words of the question:
- January 26th, appropriate day, celebrate, national identity
So, I could write this as my topic sentence of Paragraph 1.

It is clear to many Aboriginal people there is little to celebrate on January 26th and it is a commemoration of a deep loss which is often referred to as Invasion Day. This renaming of Australia Day for Indigenous Australian’s highlights the need to change the date we celebrate our national identity to a more inclusive date.

EVIDENCE

a quote or reference to an event that supports this argument you are making in this paragraph

“We call it Survival Day. Whitefellas pretty much celebrating invasion and killing our mob off—that’s what it feels like for us”.
—Warrick Wright from the Aboriginal band Local Knowledge

EXPLANATION

what this means in relation to the question in this example, how does this PERSUADE the reader to believe that January 26th is, or isn’t an appropriate day to celebrate our national identity
CLOSING SENTENCE

you sum up that paragraph, the argument you have said - remember the question again. linking - where you put in a linking word or sentence, which introduces the next paragraph.

'However... 'although...', 'if so...', 'and so...', 'but...', 'clearly...', 'on the other hand...', 'therefore...', 'supposing that...', 'furthermore...', 'looked at another way...', 'in contrast...', 'on the contrary...', etc.

MY PARAGRAPH WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS, IF IT FOLLOWED CORRECT TEEL STRUCTURE:

It is clear to many Aboriginal people there is little to celebrate on January 26th as it is a commemoration of a deep loss which is often referred to as Invasion Day. This renaming of Australia Day for Indigenous Australian’s highlights the need to change the date we celebrate our national identity to a more inclusive date. Warrick Wright states that “We call it Survival Day. Whitefellas pretty much celebrating invasion and killing our mob off—that’s what it feels like for us”. How is this an inclusive date? It is not & if we are currently not acknowledging the traditional owners of our land by holding our national celebrations on a date that marks 231 years of disposition and genocide for Indigenous Australians. As Indigenous Australian’s feel, the 26th January is a date that only celebrates the arrival of the British to our shores, not the formation of our nation.

So, if I was going to link my Paragraph 1, with Paragraph 2 (I can look back at my introduction, so I know already what my main argument will be in that paragraph)

my argument in Paragraph 1 was that to many Aboriginal people there is little to celebrate on January 26th and it is a commemoration of a deep loss, referred to as Invasion Day. And my argument in Paragraph 2 will be The 26th January celebrates the arrival of the British, not the formation of our nation. So these two can easily be linked - by having a closing sentence of:

what the next paragraph will be about, and then, I can go into Paragraph 2

My CLOSE & LINK is - As Indigenous Australian’s feel, the 26th January is a date that only celebrates the arrival of the British to our shores, not the formation of our nation.
**Paragraph 2**
What will the topic sentence be? (read the introduction, remember, link back to question)

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What will the closing sentence be?

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

**Paragraph 3**
What will the topic sentence be? (read the introduction, remember, link back to question)

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

What will the closing sentence be?

_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

**CONCLUSION**

This is where you sum up your three arguments (main points or paragraphs) and what your argument is about the question. So in this case, whether or not January 26th is an appropriate date to celebrate our national identity

YES, NO?

Overall, remember to ask yourself, are you answering the question you have been asked? You can not introduce a new idea in the conclusion.
NOTES OVERALL ON HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY

STEP 1. A PLAN

A good essay plan helps you arrange your ideas logically and stay on track during the writing process.

Your plan should state how you’re going to prove your argument, including the evidence you’re going to use. Structure your plan around the different parts of an essay. To do this:

1. Write your argument in one sentence at the top of the page – you’ll flesh this out into your introduction.
2. Write three or four key points that you think will support your argument. Try to write each point in one sentence. These will become your topic sentences.
3. Under each point, write down one or two examples from your research that support your point. These can be quotes, paraphrased text from reliable authors, etc. Remember to reference your examples when you write up your essay.
4. Finally, write the main point you want to leave in your reader’s mind – that’s your conclusion.

STEP 2. AN INTRODUCTION

Explain your three (or four extension) arguments or main points (this will be 6 (or more) sentences)

1st sentence - your answer to the essay question as such - this is called your argument or contention.
2nd sentence - furthers your opinion / contention
3rd sentence - your first argument that supports your opinion to the question
4th sentence - your second argument why
5th sentence - your third argument why
6th sentence - sums up what your belief is and what your essay will be about

STEP 3. THE BODY PARAGRAPHS

Main body - You will have three or four paragraphs

Paragraph One
1st sentence - Topic Sentence - your first argument.
2nd Sentence - Evidence - a quote from the novel that is about your argument
3rd, 4th, 5th sentence - Explanation - how this supports your opinion on the date of Australia Day
5th sentence - Linking/Closing Sentence - what your paragraph was about and how this links to the question about our national identity & this day of celebration

Paragraph Two
1st sentence - Topic Sentence - your second argument.
2nd Sentence - Evidence - a quote from the novel that is about your argument
3rd, 4th, 5th sentence - Explanation - how this supports your opinion on the date of Australia Day
5th sentence - Linking/Closing Sentence - what your paragraph was about and how this links to the question about our national identity & this day of celebration

Paragraph Three
1st sentence - Topic Sentence - your third argument.
2nd Sentence - Evidence - a quote from the novel that is about your argument
STEP 4. THE CONCLUSION

Summarise your answer to the question by re-stating your three main points / arguments (what your paragraphs were about) and your overall answer to the question based on these three points. Your conclusion is the last paragraph of your essay and the last thing your reader will read, so it needs to be memorable.

It:
1. links back to the introduction
2. summarises your key points
3. restates your main idea
4. should never contain any new information.
5. 

Once you’ve covered these basic elements, think about the ‘So what?’ factor – whether your essay stands out from the crowd. Ask yourself:

1. Why should anyone care about what I’ve written in this essay?
2. How do my ideas add to what we know about the topic?
3. If you can answer these questions, you’re on your way to a great essay.

SOME HANDY HINTS

* * Choose the best quotes

A good quote adds something meaningful to your argument and links to the main idea of the paragraph.

When choosing a quote, make sure it:

1. supports the main idea of the paragraph
2. is punchy and direct, even dramatic
3. comes from a source you trust
4. is relatively short and to the point.

Follow each quote with a short description of what it means and how it relates to your topic sentence and argument. QUOTE SANDWICH IT! Don’t use quotes instead of your own words — they’re meant to add weight to your argument.

Editing direct quotes - If a quote is too long or there’s a section that’s not relevant to your point, you can edit it out by replacing that section with an ellipsis [...].

For example
The Queensland trackers [...] were very active on foot.