Your introduction should start out general and gradually become more specific, ending with your most specific statement, the thesis statement. This is what your entire paper is going to be about.

The first sentence should include your years.

Ex. The 1940s were a challenging time in American history.

The second sentence should include your two topics from the assignment sheet.

Ex. Many important discoveries took place during this time in aviation and technology.

The third sentence, the thesis, should include your subtopics.

Ex. The invention of the helicopter and the atom bomb influenced not only the 1940s, but history itself.