Read the following articles:

* <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ransomware-europe-russia-ukraine-petya-bitcoin-1.4179683>
* <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/oshawa-hospital-cyberattack-1.4114758>
* <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2017/05/13/ontario-health-ministry-on-high-alert-amid-global-cyberattack.html>

Guidelines for writing a supported opinion paragraph (SOP)

* + <http://schools.peelschools.org/sec/fletchersmeadow/studentlife/OSSLTprep/Documents/Sample_%20Writing%20a%20Supported%20opinion%20paragraph.pdf>

**Level 1: Ransomware Basics**

1. What is a ransomware attack?

Ransomware is a form of malicious software (or malware). Typically, once it takes over your computer, it threatens you with harm. The attacker demands a ransom (a sum of money) from the victim, claiming to restore access to the data after the ransom is paid. Users are shown instructions for how to pay to get the decryption key. The costs can range from a few hundred dollars to thousands, payable to cybercriminals in Bitcoin.

1. How does ransomwhare work and what does it affect?

“There are a number of vectors ransomware can take to access a computer. One of the most common delivery systems is phishing spam — attachments that come to the victim in an email, masquerading as a file they should trust. Once they're downloaded and opened, they can take over the victim's computer, especially if they have built-in social engineering tools that trick users into allowing administrative access. Some other, more aggressive forms of ransomware, like NotPetya, exploit security holes to infect computers without needing to trick users."

Fruhlinger, Josh. “What Is Ransomware? How These Attacks Work & How to Recover from Them.” *CSO Online*, CSO, 19 Dec. 2018, [www.csoonline.com/article/3236183/what-is-ransomware-how-it-works-and-how-to-remove-it.html](http://www.csoonline.com/article/3236183/what-is-ransomware-how-it-works-and-how-to-remove-it.html).

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

1. What was affected in Canada in the articles above?

Lakeridge Heath Hospitals were attacked with malware and so were several other hospitals in Canada.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

Since Lakeridge had updated their antivirus which had contained the software and allowed all their systems to be up and running by the next day, this was not the case for others. Others had not implemented the new update which made them have more to lose from the malware.

1. What other countries were affected?

The cyberattack has paralyzed computers and networks around the world, including the ones that run Britain's hospital network, Germany's national railway and scores of other companies and government agencies worldwide.

**Level 3: Attack Details**

1. Where did the attack come from?

It came from an email provider hosting that address, Berlin-based Posteo.

1. Why was the attack started?

It was started with the intention to collect money.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

Hospitals used an antivirus to prevent the software from doing too much damage.

1. How could you be affected by a ransomware attack?

I could be affected since someone would have access to all my personal accounts, thus invading my privacy and putting my security at risk.

1. How can you protect yourself against a ransomwhare attack?

You can download an antivirus software, or not download files that look shady or suspicious. You can also actively prevent from clicking on emails that look like a scam.