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?

A ransomware attack is an attack software that locks up a computer’s files with an unbreakable encryption that demands a ransom for the files release. It is dangerous when a computer gets infected and should be dealt with as soon as possible. People, who are trying to rob others, for money, usually do a ransomware attack.

2.    How does ransomware work and what does it affect?

Ransomware works by locking up files on a computer. It demands money or other valuable things. It affects companies as they may lose information about their customers or home computers as well.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

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

Lake ridge Health, from Oshawa, was affected from Canada. Lake ridge Health is one of Ontario’s largest Community hospitals.

2.    How badly was Canada affected?

Canada wasn’t affected extremely as the ransomware was removed before it caused a lot of damage also; Lake ridge Health was the only place in Canada to be affected. Lake ridge Health had an antivirus, so the ransomware was removed anyways with no harm to their computers.

3.    What other countries were affected?

Almost 100 other countries were affected. Some include the networks and computers 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?

The attack’s origins remain unclear.

2.    Why was the attack started?

The attack was started as an individual or group of people were trying to get money, $300 exactly, from many people around the world. They would of have made a lot of money if the threat wasn’t stopped.

3.    How was the attacked stopped?

People updated their computers, antiviruses had stopped the virus when it was received, and others went to computer shops to get their computers fixed.

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

You can be affected by a ransomware attack if your computer is not updated or if your computer does not have an antivirus. Old software versions usually get attacked the most, as they do not have the latest security features on their computer. Also, an antivirus can help with protecting your computer when a virus/ransomware is trying to attack.

5.    How can you protect yourself against a ransomware attack?

Updating your computer as soon as possible and downloading good and trusted antivirus help you protect your computer from a ransomware attack. Usually, new updates have features that can protect you from ransomware. Antiviruses can help with stopping ransomware attacks if one even tries to attack your computer.