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 when ransomware, a form of malware that takes over your computer to threaten you with harm by denying the access to your data by encrypting the data. When this situation occurs, the aggressor demands for a ransom from the victim in exchange of restoring the victim’s data. But sometimes the aggressor could be lying.

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

Ransomware happens when the attacker takes over the control of the victim’s computer and data. However this action will only occur if the victim were to open the virus sent by the attacker. The most common delivery system of the virus is phishing spam. This spam is an attachment of the virus

<https://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?

In the articles above, lots of Canadian hospitals were affected by the Ransomware attack. A hospital in Oshawa Ontario was attacked. Another health care system called Lakeridge Health was threatened but the facility's system was able to deflect the attack.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

After the Ransomware attack occurred, the hospitals had to reset some of the computer systems. But no patient information was lost.

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?

The creator of the Ransomware spread via a link in an email.

1. Why was the attack started?

The attack is started in demand hundreds or thousands of dollars to unlock the victims computers essentially holding the documents, photos and other items on the computer for ransom.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

The ministry has pointed all hospitals to a “patch,” or software update, which must be installed to protect against Ransomware infections.

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

The Ransomware attack could occur in various ways. But the most common way for the attack to occur is by opening a an unknown email that looks like spam and this email was sent by the Ransomware creator. But it can also happen if you open a non-protected websites. When the Ransomware affects our devices, they encrypt our files and threatens us by saying that we either pay a certain amount of money to retrieve all of our encrypted files or another victim of this Ransomware attack has to pay for us.

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

We can protect ourselves from the attack by patching or by getting the latest updated version of the operating system we are using for our device.