Read the following resources before answering the questions below:

1. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/rob-commentary/cryptocurrencys-crash-is-a-matter-of-when-not-if/article37257013/>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/hut8-medicine-hat-bitcoin-mining-1.4834027>
3. <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-42237432>

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: Bitcoin & Cryptocurrencies**

1. List three ways that “cryptocurrencies” (e.g. Bitcoin) are different from traditional currencies (money).

The difference between the cryptocurrency and the real money includes :

* the fact that while the bank and governments control the real money, cryptocurrencies are not controlled by any singular body. Anybody can sell his or her own as they wish, and people can decide the worth of theirs when they want to purchase with it.
* Nobody can force anybody to pay with cryptocurrencies, and once payments are released and completed, the transactions can never be reversed. However, people could be forced to pay as the real banks and governments deem fit, and transactions could be reversed as easily as possible.
* Cryptocurrency transactions could be viewed, but because they are all digital transactions, you won’t ever see the name of the person that is sending the money or receiving it. This is because everything is digitalized. But transactions with real money in the real world cannot be anonymous and could be easily traced.

1. List one advantage of Bitcoin over online payment services such as PayPal.

* Bitcoin Provides more privacy and anonymity than online services like PayPal
* Bitcoin has a lower transaction fee than online payment services such as PayPal

1. List three types of organizations (or types of users) that would benefit in a positive way from the use of “cryptocurrencies”.

* Cryptocurrencies are favoured by criminals who hack computers and hold them for ransom, by individuals who aim to move assets from countries that enforce currency-exchange controls and by those who seek to avoid taxation.

1. Bitcoin claims to be anonymous. Is this true (explain)? How could someone find out your identity?

* No, bitcoin is not completely anonymous.First of all, even though Bitcoin transactions are randomly transmitted over the peer-to-peer network, this system is not airtight. Second, Bitcoin addresses can be linked to real identities if these *real identities are used in combination* with the Bitcoin addresses in some way. Third, *all* transactions over the Bitcoin network are completely transparent and traceable by anyone.
* Someone could find my identity by hacking the system and tracking my transactions, payments, account etc.

**Level 2: Bitcoin & The Environment**

1. What is a Bitcoin “miner” and how big is the Hut-8 facility in the city of Medicine Hat Alberta?

* Bitcoin mining is the process of adding transaction records to Bitcoin public ledger of past transactions or blockchain. A person who does this is known as Bitcoin miner.
* The Hut-8 facility is 4½-hectare big

1. Why has Hut-8 decided to locate its facility in Alberta when its head office is in Toronto? What does the city of Medicine Hat provide that is required for mining Bitcoin?

* Hut-8 decided to locate its facility in Medicine Hat because Hut-8 needs gas-fired generation and Medicine Hat have it in spades.

1. What benefits does the city of Medicine Hat expect to see from this Bitcoin facility?

* Medicine hat gets economic benefits from this Bitcoin facility
* Medicine Hat will receive a significant financial boost from the new project, due to more jobs and the actual money that comes from the facility.

1. What concern does the city of Medicine Hat have about from this Bitcoin facility?  
     
   Concerns:

* Increased energy usage
* Waste of energy

1. What concern do environmentalists have about the Medicine Hat facility and about Bitcoin mining in general? E.g. how does Bitcoin mining harm the environment?

* Environmentalists are concerned by the sheer amount of energy consumed by bitcoin mining, especially in places like Medicine Hat where most of the electricity is produced by fossil fuels.

1. If Hut-8 wanted to build a facility in Brampton, would be in favor of this proposal. Write a SOP to justify your position.

* If Hut-8 wanted to build a facility in Brampton I would be against it because Bitcoin mining causes way to many environmental issues and I would rather not have them near me. They are going to cause issues like pollution if they burn fossil fuels, wastage of energy etc. In conclusion, I would be against building a Hut-8 facility in Brampton due to its negative impacts on environment.

**Level 3: Mobile Payments**

1. Explain how you could use social media to make payments for things you buy in the store.

* You could ask ask someone to pay for you using Facebook or other social media and get cash transferred to you using app like PayPal etc.
* You can also pay directly to the cashier by using PayPal.

1. List three ways that social media payments are a positive thing.

* Allows users to share their mobile payment messages on social feeds making it convenient to pay
* Allows payments to be made within mobile apps, but crucially, allows users to follow each other's accounts and add comments.
* It is very easy to use and save you the hassle

1. List three ways that social media payments are a negative thing.

* The transaction can take time
* The transaction and everything depends on data or wifi.
* Your personal information is not safe

1. Is Canada ahead of or behind other countries in the use of mobile payments? Explain your answer.

* I think Canada is a little behind other countries as countries like Japan have some shops that only accepts online payments and a lot of shops that have various options for online payment.

1. In your opinion, should mobile payments be allowed in Canada? Write a SOP to justify your position.

* In my opinion, mobile payments should be allowed in Canada as mobile payments provide a convenient way of paying. They make the payment process easier and less complicated. Mobile payment also, makes it easier for consumers as consumers no longer have to assume the security risks associated with cash or worry whether they have enough cash in their bulky physical wallets so that mobile payments reduce theft risks of having cash on hand.