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 a virus that encrypts your files and denies you access to them. You can get access to your computer again by paying the hacker with money and crypto currency.

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

Ransomware works by encrypting your files and giving you a message to pay the hacker money by a certain day or your files will be deleted.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

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

A hospital in Oshawa, Lakeridge Health was hit by a ransomware attack and another hospital Norfolk General Hospital in Simcoe.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

The hospital had antivirus software so they were not affected very much. However they did have to restart their computers.

1. What other countries were affected?

Over 150 countries were affected by the ransomware attack.

**Level 3: Attack Details**

1. Where did the attack come from?

The virus apparently came from Ukraine.

1. Why was the attack started?

The attack started because the hackers wanted to make money from a security exploit in Microsoft Windows released by the NSA.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

The attack was stopped in an Oshawa hospital by their antivirus software. Microsoft later released a security fix for the vulnerability.

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

I could be affected by a ransomware attack in the same way these hospitals and banks were attacked. I could get denied access to my computer unless I paid the attacker however much they demanded.

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

You can protect yourself from a ransomware attack by being careful of what you download onto your PC. The ransomware was spread through an email that contained a link. Making sure to browse the internet safely and not clicking on suspicious links helps reduce the chance of getting attacked by ransomware or other malicious software. Another way to reduce risks of your computer getting attacked is by using an antivirus software. Using an up to date operating system can also help you protect yourself from viruses.