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).

Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin don't have the government to regulate and monitor there systems, is not tangible, and is not widely accepted.

1. List one advantage of Bitcoin over on-line payment services such as PayPal.

They are a great way of maintaining records for tax purposes as once transferred, a bitcoins’ ownership also gets transferred. This means that two people cannot be transacting on the same value and this will help keep records healthy and simpler, especially for tax purposes as it is more anonymous..

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

Large corporations and Brand-name businesses. Criminals and individuals that move their assets from countries or even hackers who see the purpose of obtaining value.

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

Bitcoin is not really anonymous because each transaction is associated with the sender and receiver's bitcoin address. This information is shared within the users who buy and sell Bitcoin meaning someone could possibly find your identity that you have used to qualify for Bitcoin.

1. Many people claim that the use of "cryptocurrencies" should be restricted because they make it easier for criminals to hide their actions. Is this a valid point of view? Write a SOP to support your argument.

Online theft happens when someone is given the tools to take advantage over the victim.

The Bitcoin is a very interesting concept that is gaining acceptance by many companies on the internet like PayPal, WordPress, Reddit, Microtronix and many others. In fact ATM machines are already on the way to be used. With Bitcoins, criminals have the privilege of creating exposure to online scams and fraud towards other users. This because of the same reason of why they are not widely accepted and supported with no chargeback or refund system. More so, since all your credit card info is stored in one central location, there is a larger chance that hackers may steal your info.

**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?

A Bitcoin miner is a person is a person that compiles recent transactions into blocks and tries to solve complicated puzzles. Bitcoin mining is the process of adding transaction records to Bitcoin's public ledger of past transactions or blockchain.

2. 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?

The city of Medicine Hat has attracted many businesses such like this one by offering low-cost energy. As the bitcoin system is designed, so only a limited number of the cryptocurrency can be mined everyday. Overtime, once more miners compete for a then decreasing number of available bitcoins, facilities will have to use more electricity compared to the amount of the cryptocurrency that is collected.

3. What benefits does the city of Medicine Hat expect to see from this Bitcoin facility?  
They are hoping for the facility to employ 40 full-time workers. By also providing economic benefits and financial boost.

4. What concern does the city of Medicine Hat have about from this Bitcoin facility?Some say the bitcoin mining industry wastes too much energy. There are claims that Medicine Hat’s power plant and renewable energy is not reliable for Hut 8.

5. 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?

Environmental groups are concerned on the amount of energy consumed by bitcoin mining, especially in a city like Medicine Hat where most of the electricity is produced by fossil fuels. Bitcoins are "mined" by computers in vast data centers that guzzle huge amounts of energy.

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

Many will misjudge Bitcoins as a form of investment but they really are not. Bitcoin is used as more as a form of gambling where buyers hope to sell them for more than they paid to get them collected. Its value fluctuates daily as its novelty and popularity changes. When comparing third party Bitcoin mining organization to an average business that are built in a facility within a city like Brampton they have corporate stock that has a company actively working to earn, or a bond that pays interest and helps with the overall economy. Bitcoins are anonymous in terms of transactions and there is no real regulation to it as there is no government control. This would only lead to more disadvantages than advantages with the amount of untracked scams and wrong doing that could be done within the heart of the facilities buy and sell platform.

**Level 3: Mobile Payments**

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

There are many apps such as Apple Pay, Google Wallet, Venmo, LoopPay, Square Cash, etc… You can also enable a mobile card reader to your phone to buy things at stores. That can provide an easy transaction linked from your phone to those payments.

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

**Security:** While doing transaction with mobile you don’t have to reveal your card information or any personal detail like it usually happens in case of credit cards. No one will get to know your personal data unless they have your mobile device and PIN or your fingerprint.

**Privacy:** Mobile Payments provide you with secure and confidential transactions. Mobile payment companies doesn’t store any information like whom you are sending money, how much transaction has been done and more.

**Simplicity:** Mobile payments are easy to use and the mobile-payment options available today basically all work the same way. You enter your credit card or debit card info into an app ahead of time. Then, at a store, you launch the app and have the cashier scan it, or you tap your phone. Some retailers have their own apps. Other systems let you pay at multiple retailers such as for Google Wallet and Apple Pay. The process is particularly seamless as at a store, the phone wakes up automatically, and you simply wave or tap it at the register, then approve a purchase with your thumbprint.

**Speed:** Mobile payments are very fast. As they are really convenient and efficient to have all cash on a device than wallet or have to go to bank.

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

**Theft:** Our smartphones are prone to theft since mobile payments gives you the ability to make the transaction in your convenience. Mobile devices are prone to theft which may subject to lose their card and personal account information.

**Not Universally/Widely Supported:** Not every company is using it as many businesses still have yet to adopt to this new technology

**Latest Hardware:** You need the latest technology unless you have a newer smartphone, you will not be able to use mobile payments. And there’s no way around it, you need at least an Apple or Android phone from the last year or so in order to move into the mobile payment world.

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

Countries like Italy, Sweden, and the U.K are ahead when compared to Canada in their mobile payment systems.

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

Online payments bring variety and efficiency in the forms of payments used today. It allows for users to easily carry money in their phone wallet than tangible money in your pocket because you can lose it. Many people can simply now make use of the technology in a productive way instead of always fooling around on apps based on the latest trends in social media. They instead create convenience to users and could encourage more people to be social since they are capable of giving money and receiving money from their friends.