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 program that controls a computer and encrypts all the contents/files on the computer, making them inaccessible/unusable.

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

A ransomware attack stops the user from controlling the computer while it encrypts all the files of the computer. When these files are tried to be opened, they are un-open able unless decrypted. The virus does not disclose how to decrypt the files, but asks for a ransom (money), usually in form of Bitcoin. Some users fall into this and send money to the creator of the virus. The creator is also untraceable because it is impossible to trace someone using their Bitcoin address. This ransomware can affect anyone, including big companies and even some parts of the government.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

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

The ransomware virus attacked Canadian hospitals, government offices and major corporations.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

Canada was not majorly affected by the ransomware attack. Many places such as hospitals easily deflected the ransomware attack, causing only computer system downtime and not any information loss. There were other, personal computers that were also affected by this attack and many people lost their important documents due to this attack.

1. What other countries were affected?

Many other countries were affected by this attack, including but not limited to-

-United States

-Ukraine

-United Kingdom

-China

-Taiwan

-Germany

**Level 3: Canada & Other Countries**

1. Where did the attack come from?

The attack was started from Ukraine.

1. Why was the attack started?

This attack was started to “steal” or force people to send money to the creator, in form of Bitcoin.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

The attack was stopped by government antivirus systems. For personal computer users, different manufacturers released software updates to stop the virus from infecting the computer.

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

I can be affected by ransomware attack if I accidently run it on a computer. It will encrypt all the files on my computer so I can no longer use them.

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

I can protect myself from a ransomware attack if I:

- am more careful about opening suspicious links.

- update my computer regularly to make sure that my computer has information about how to stop these attacks.