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 malware is coded to effectively hold a user’s computer hostage until a ransom fee is paid.

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

Ransomware infects your computer and takes your files. The malware will make all your files gibberish and hold your computer as “Hostage”. The virus coder will hold all your files and ask for a specific amount of money in a specific amount of time. Once you pay the ransom, you will receive an encrypting key which you can use to change you files back to normal text. If you do not pay the ransom, your files will not be deleted but you will not be able to access them as they will be coded into gibberish.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

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

A hospital in Oshawa was ransomware attacked on May 14, 2017. All patient files and data were encrypted and were unreadable. 145 Hospitals in Canada are being made secure by Canada’s Health Ministry.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

This had not affected Canada as bad because only the computers shutdown and the hospital received the encrypting key.

1. What other countries were affected?

Some other countries that were affected are Germany and Britain. This ransomware attack has hit globally to over 150 countries.

**Level 3: Attack Details**

1. Where did the attack come from?

The attacks origins remain unclear.

1. Why was the attack started?

The attack was started as a plan by an individual or group of people to make money, $300 exactly. They would have made a lot of money if this attack was not stopped by many people.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

People had updated their computers, antiviruses had blocked the virus, or people went to computer shops to get their computers fixed.

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

You could be affected by a ransomware attack if you have an old software, or no antivirus. Old software’s get attacked the most as they do not have the latest security features to protect their computer. Antiviruses can help block viruses, so you do not get attacked by them.

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

You should upgrade your computer because new computer systems have new security software’s which protect your computer from latest types of viruses. You can buy a trusted antivirus which will stop viruses from attacking your computer.