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 type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.

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

Ransomware blocks access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid. simple ransomware may lock the system in a way which is not difficult for a person to reverse, and the more advanced malware uses a technique called cryptoviral extortion, in which it encrypts the victim's files, making them inaccessible, and demands a ransom payment to decrypt them.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

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

From the Ransomware attack, in Canada, a hospital in Oshawa was affected, a Canadian intelligence agency was affected and a number of organizations and individuals in Canada were affected.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

Canada was affected pretty severely since a hospital in Oshawa was attacked but the hospital technology was able to withstand the breach and no information from the hospital was compromised and an intelligence agency was affected by this attack too which could’ve leaked information of who knows what. Canada in this worldwide attack was affected worse than other countries.

1. What other countries were affected?

Some other countries that were affected are Ukraine, Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, Canada, and Germany.

**Level 3: Attack Details**

1. Where did the attack come from?

The malware's origins remain unclear. Researchers picking the program apart found evidence its creators had borrowed from leaked National Security Agency code, raising the possibility that the digital havoc had spread using U.S. taxpayer-funded tools.

1. Why was the attack started?

The cyberattack was started when they took over the computers were taken over, encrypted the information on them and demanded a payment of $300 or more from users to unlock their devices.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

The ransomware attack was stopped by using a kill switch, which is a mechanism for turning off a device of software remotely. A kill switch is a way for the operator to terminate their connection to the software. A piece of malware will often run its control communication across multiple unregistered internet domains. By changing the domains, it uses, the software can thwart attempts to understand or neutralize it.

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

I could be affected by a ransomware attack by the virus spreading around maybe my area and perhaps into my computer. The ransomware could lock my computer down and ask for a certain amount of money and until I pay it, it will keep my computer locked. Holds pictures and everything inside my computer until paid.

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

I can protect myself against a ransomware attack by switching my internet domains since that is a method of the kill switch or I could get an anti-malware downloaded onto my computer.