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**

List three ways that “cryptocurrencies” (e.g. Bitcoin) are different from traditional currencies (money).

* + **Virtual Money**
  + **Cannot be traced**
  + **lack the backing of an established government or financial institution**

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

* **Security is very high and it is a trustworthy system. Not everyone can trace your wallet and the system is used in many different shops**

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

* **Hackers**
* **Criminals**
* **Individuals who aim to move assets from countries that enforce currency-exchange controls and by those who seek to avoid taxation**

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

**Bitcoin is not completely anonymous, someone could find out your identity. Since Each transaction is associated with the sender's and receiver's bitcoin wallet address. And anyone who wants to convert bitcoins into dollars, to facilitate spending in the real world, will need eventually to perform a transaction that associates their cryptocurrency wallet with their bank account (and personal identity).**

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.

**No, I do not believe that cryptocurrencies should be restricted because they make it easier for criminals to hide their actions. Cryptocurrencies have a lot of perks and if one were to be a criminal, when they eventually make a transaction with their wallet, their identity could be found. Other than criminals, cryptocurrencies help out many people around the world when moving countries/assets and in the future will eventually be one of the main currencies used.**

**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 the process by which transactions are verified and added to the public ledger, known as the block chain, and also the means through which new bitcoin are released**
* **Hut-8 facility in the city of Medicine Hat Alberta is 4 ½ hectares**

1. 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?

**Hut-8 is located in Alberta because of the amount of blackouts in Alberta due to how many miners there are in Alberta. There are some bitcoin buyers in Alberta which requires them to have more energy.**

1. What benefits does the city of Medicine Hat expect to see from this Bitcoin facility?

**Some benefits for the city of Medicine Hat is they now have their own natural gas, electricity generations and distribution centers. With this 40 new full time jobs are created in the city. Also plus the economy of Medicine Hat is expected to increase due to the jobs increase.**

1. What concern does the city of Medicine Hat have about from this Bitcoin facility?

**The concern for the city of Medicine Hat is that fossil fuels are used to run the facilities and not clean energy. This means the air of Medicine Hat is going to be polluted due to the facilities**.

1. 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?

**Bitcoin mining is harming the environment as it takes a lot of energy to bitcoin mine. Bitcoin mining causes a lot of blackouts which is a lot of trouble for the city people. Also to run the facility fossil fuels are used which harm the air.**

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

**If a Hut-8 facility was built in Brampton, it would be a great economy boost for the city as it will create a lot jobs. If a Hut-8 facility comes to Brampton then the economy will boost and more jobs will be created. Moreover, Brampton economy can be on a rise if its own facility is built. Brampton will have its own natural gas, electricity generators and distribution centers. With all this it will create a lot of money and more population for the city of Brampton. Furthermore, Brampton’s unemployment rate will go down as more jobs will be created. With the natural gas facility, electricity generators and distribution centers this will for sure create a lot of jobs for Brampton. In conclusion, a Hut-8 facility will help Brampton in a lot of ways.**

**Level 3: Mobile Payments**

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

* **You can use social media to make payments for things you buy in the store by using the features of the app which allow you to add your credit card informations. This can then be digitally used to buy things.**

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

* **Better relationships**
* **More organized**
* **More secure**

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

* **Less need of banks**
* **Information can sometimes be leaked**

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

* **Canada is behind other countries in the use of mobile payments, currently China and America are in the top spots. These two countries use mobile payments the most since stores in these countries nowadays support the features. But in Canada some stores do not support mobile payment therefore Canada is falling behind.**

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

**I believe that mobile payments should be allowed in Canada for many reasons. First of all, mobile payments develop a better bond with the user and the company. They are also a fast and easy way to pay without carrying a big purse or wallet around with you all the time. Mobile payments are more organized and are more secure than losing a wallet since one would need a passcode to login to the phone and access the information. In conclusion mobile payments should be allowed in Canada because they are more organized, secure and**