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).  
   Crypticurrencies lack the backing if an established government or financial institution. When purchasing transactions are under “anonymous”. Also taxation can be avoid when using Bitcoin.
2. List one advantage of Bitcoin over on-line payment services such as PayPal.

It is anonymous, which helps people keep things more private and secure.

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

Any type of business could benefit from cryptocurrencies because they can avoid taxes. Thetype of people that stash their money “under a mattress” could use cryptocurrencies because they will be able to use their money without questions being asked.

If businessmen use these types of currencies they also do not have to do much paperwork, which will make their process faster and easier.

1. Bitcioin claims to be anonymous. Is this true (explain)? How could someone find out your identity?  
   Bitcoin does claim to be anonymous, however not entirely. Ones purchases can be traced back to their Bitcoin wallets and if they decide to turn their Bitcoins into dollars to use outside they will need to make a transaction in which they will link their bank account and personal information to.
2. 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 arguement.

Cryptocurrencies do make it easier for criminals to hide their actions, therefore they should be restricted. Criminals can easily get away with dangerous activity and unsafe transactions. Big organizations and companies can also create loopholes. This also takes away from safety because such purchases can be made which will help in violent activity, and the law may not be able to track it back to the person. Therefore, cryptocurrienbces should be restricted because of the danger that comes with them.

**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?  
   Hut-8 is the largest Bitcoin mining project in Canada. The project using the same amount of electricity as the whole city of Medicine Hat does.
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?

Hut-8 has decided to locate its facility in a Alberta instead of Toronto because Medicine Hat has a vast amount of electricity. It provides them with the amount of power they need to mine Bitcoin. Medicine Hat also has a small populations which only increase the amount of power getting to the facility.

1. What benefits does the city of Medicine Hat expect to see from this Bitcoin facility?  
   The city of Medicine gets an economic boost. They get a lot of money out of the facility which helps their economic state.
2. What concern does the city of Medicine Hat have about from this Bitcoin facility?  
   The city’s main concern is the facility’s environmental impact. It is consuming way too much electricity, and environmentalists think that should be re-considered.
3. What concern do environmentalists have about the Medicine Hat facility and about Bitcion mining in general? E.g. how does Bitcoin mining harm the environment?  
   Bitcoin mining has a huge magnitude towards carbon emissions. In Medicine Hat most of the electricity comes from fossil fuel. With the facility in place it means more fuels will be burnt and the environment will be negatively affected.
4. If Hut-8 wanted to build a facility in Brampton, would be in favor of this proposal. Write a SOP to justify your position.

I would not be in favor of building a facility in Brampton because, it for sure is not a priority. The facility would be using up too much electricity. This will have a negative effect on the environment. Plus, we already have a huge population which needs electricity, therefore we will have to also burn fossil fuels ruining our air. The city’s residents may face power shortages. I do not think Bitcoin is important for people living in Brampton. We should be focusing on more important things like building a railway connecting GTA. Hence I do not think Brampton should build a Hut-8 facility.

**Level 3: Mobile Payments**

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

You can transfer your money to the company from your bank account or credit cards.

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

Social media payments are a positive things because they are fast. It takes minute for that money to get from one pocket to the other. It is easy to keep track of your payments. When paying in person or cash you forget the places you spent your money, but when it is on social media you can go back and check at any time. Also you are able to send money to anyone at any time it makes this whole thing a lot more convenient.

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

Social media payments are a negative thing because there is not as much safety. An online system can be hacked into and your credit card number could be stolen with other valuable information. Anyone can also easily track back the transfer and purchase back to your name. Lastly, we are just exposing ourselves more and more to the internet, where anyone can find out anything about you. We should be trying to keep as much privacy and distance from the internet as we can, however everything is becoming the exact opposite.

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

At the moment Canada is behind other countries in the use of mobile payments because we do not have our own technology for it. We may not be as invested right now. I also do not think as many people use online payments in Canada, regarding the citizens.

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

I think they should be allowed in Canada, but it is up to the person to use them. They are fast and not everyone always has time to pay their bills right away. Also sometimes when people live far from each other and won’t be able to see one another for holidays and celebrations they can send them a gift in time. It is also more traceable, you know exactly where you are sending your money and can look back whenever to make sure. Therefore, I think mobile payments should be allowed in Canada.