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?

Ransomware is a type of software which falls in the category of being malicious, from crypto virology (field that studies how to make software which falls in the category of malicious). It threatens individuals on PC’s to publish their data (personal data credit cards, addresses, family information and pictures, etc.) the only way they leave you is if you pay them a certain ransom. Ransomware was a huge problem starting near 2012 and infecting thousands of victims across the world being a problem worldwide which made headlines in more than 10 countries Canada being one of them.

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

Ransomware is a very advanced malicious software which affects the software of the PC (Programming of the PC). It was advanced as its infected people’s computers and used a technique used crypto viral extortion. Crypto viral extortion is the way hackers were successful using ransomware. Crypto viral extortion means encrypting the files. This is what hackers used to infect files and take control over them. When the files were encrypted victims had no access to them. The only way to get them back was with a key and hackers demanded ransomed money in order to get the files ba.ck or they threatened to leak the information which caused thousands of people to pay. To end off, ransomware infected the software of the PC being files and forced thousands of people to pay ransom in order to get them back.

**Level 2: Canada & Other Countries**

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

The articles that were given to us above prove that Canada was one of many countries affected and caused many victims to this almost impossible to solve computer virus. One area that was quite close to where we live, Brampton was affected. The city is known as Oshawa. A hospital known as the Lakeridge health hospital was affected. As always, the ransomware was making threats to the computer system in the hospital. Luckily, according to the article the hospital’s software was up-to date and eliminated the ransomware when it tried to infiltrate the system. To close this off, happily no patients were harmed and no information was leaked as the system easily deflected the attack.

1. How badly was Canada affected?

Canada was affected pretty badly. According to many cyber security databases. Hundreds of thousands of people were infected included big businesses and organizations. No information from the government has been released but they have been working hard on trying to get these hackers down and bring justice to those who’ve been affected. Once caught the government will release but this will be hard as there can be thousands of people doing this as it is in different countries.

1. What other countries were affected?

Other than Canada countries from Europe and Asia have been attacked. One being Germany also suffering from the malicious software. Countries like Ireland and The United Kingdom were similarly affected like Canada. The software was attacking there hospitals and many victims information was released. Especially from The United Kingdom. To add on from countries organizations such as FedEx were getting attacked there systems were also getting attacked trying to get person information from their consumers.

**Level 3: Canada & Other Countries**

1. Where did the attack come from?

The attack came from an individual that goes by the name of Adam L. Young. Adam was an individual in the field for years and wanted to use his skills for the wrong doing so he did. Although he was the creator he still does not have access to most of the roots to most hackers in today’s society using their own twist on the virus. This is why it is hard for people to track it when it was in its prime of a malicious software.

1. Why was the attack started?

The attack was started for a negative reason. People wanted to find a way to get into other computers easily via email and ransom money anonymously. This helped them live a normal average life while scamming individuals over the internet. The virus was key for lots of individuals losing thousands of dollars on their bank accounts.

1. How was the attacked stopped?

The attack was stopped from companies and organizations releasing security updates from time to time. Especially Microsoft as its systems were attacked the most. Microsoft found a way to minimize it and they dropped the viruses rate by almost 80 percent.

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

It’s quite easy as if you access lots of websites and give in your email you will get thousands of spam emails. With this being said, if you go on sites that are not secure and have a warning you can get it from there and especially emails. Lots of fake emails that act to be big companies like Apple trick you and get on your computer

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

It is also not hard to protect yourself against a ransomware attack. To start off, make sure you download trusted anti viruses and pay for them as they can detect it and easily prevent them. Also, do not let suspicious people go on your computer an example being telemarketers they will use TeamViewer and snatch your PC and everything in front of you giving you no control. Also delete spam emails as this is the number one source for ransomware to get on to your computer. Lastly do not go on suspicious websites and you will be good. To end, these four reasons will keep you the most protected and will keep your computer clean.