



Directions: Over the weekend, please:

- Read the essay “Shooting Dad” by Sarah Vowell (412-419).
- Annotate the following excerpts, paying attention to the writing strategies she uses to communicate her central idea.

Excerpts:

1. “...you wouldn’t have needed to come inside to see that it was a house divided. You could have looked at the Democratic campaign poster in the upstairs window and the Republican one in the downstairs window and seen our home for the Civil War battleground it was” (Vowell 412).

2. “All he ever cared about were guns. All I ever cared about was art. There were years and years when he hid out by himself in the garage making rifle barrels and I holed up in my room reading Allen Ginsberg poems, and we were incapable of having a conversation that didn’t end in an argument” (Vowell 413).

3. “One thing that my dad and I share is that we’re both a little hard of hearing — me from Aerosmith, him from gunsmith” (Vowell 417-418).

4. “The other hiker says, ‘That’s quite the machine you got there.’ But he isn’t talking about the cannon. He’s talking about my tape recorder and microphone — which is called a *shotgun* mike. I stare back at him, then I look over at my father’s cannon, then stare down at my microphone, and I think, Oh. My. God. My dad and I are the same person. We’re both smart-alecky loners with goofy projects and weird equipment” (Vowell 418).

5. “I’ll do it, too. I will have my father’s body burned into ashes. I will pack these ashes into paper bags. I will go to the mountains with my mother, my sister, and the cannon. I will plunge his remains into the barrel and point it to a hill so that he doesn’t take anyone with him. I will light the fuse. But I will not cover my ears. Because when I blow what used to be my dad into the earth, I want it to hurt” (Vowell 419).

