Justin Cronin is an American author. He has written four novels, won the PEN/Hemingway Award, the Stephen Crane Prize, and the Whiting Writers Award. He is also a father and a husband. He recently wrote an article on the highly debatable gun topic and his view on gun ownership along with his personal experience with guns in general. In his article, *Confessions of a Liberal Gun Owner*, Mr. Cronin gives several different points of views on gun ownership by, growing up in New England and being a Liberal and growing up in the Northeast he makes a strong point that gun ownership probably isn’t a high demand, also the fact that he brings up that he his political views are mainly Democratic and has voted once in his lifetime for a Republican is a sure shot at first that he is widely against guns and pro gun control.

A big surprise pops out when the fact that he states he is also a Texas resident and gun owner comes to surface. Another surprise is when he starts talking about his collection of semi-auto guns and large capacity magazines. This may turn the readers judgments around and spin them for loop, the reader will also be in for a treat when Mr. Cronin starts talking about hitting the gun range once a week, is currently pursuing his concealed weapons permit, and plans on taking a tactical training course. Not to mention, Mr. Cronin pulls the reader in a little closer by name-dropping some specific shotguns he is in the market for, showing the reader that he is knowledgeable with guns and thus gaining more respect by perhaps all parties.
Mr. Cronin brings in several stereotypes in this article, which could potentially keep readers drawn in by expanding to that certain someone of the same genre. He even goes as far as stereotyping himself as a metrosexual but as a gun owner as well. He reaches all audiences when he says, “There is a pleasure to be had when exercising one’s rights.” In all honesty who doesn’t like to exercise their rights? The way he brings his views together as a Liberal and a Texan is very logical in the sense that he understands his rights and wants to utilize those by being an active gun owner but also recognizing the dangers of guns and the effect they can have if not treated as a weapon. The reader should understand that he even brings in the topic of TV shows with some related gun violence and that he as a boy played shooting games and that he understands the psychological power a firearm possesses.

In the article he brings up a very valid point to as why someone should be a proud gun owner, to protect his family if need be. Whether it be by intruder or some other form of chaos and even relates his reasons by explaining the ‘breaking point’ for him on why his relationship with guns didn’t end during a evacuation attempt during hurricane Rita. I think he draws the readers’ attention by citing this example of why we should have guns. Yes, he agrees with owning guns but having some sort of better regulations for purchasing guns should be a top priority. He gives you and example by telling you he once bought a gun in a parking lot. The article states that the, “Obama administrations proposals are more symbolic than effective and that every gun owner is a bunch of inbred rednecks doesn’t do much to advance rational discussions” is something that every reader should be able to relate to or agree upon.

Mr. Cronin seems to broadcast an emotion of concern with the highly debatable topic of gun control and as a Liberal seems to want a minor reform on the regulations of purchasing a
firearm but expresses that we should exercise our rights and have guns for personal protection if chaos were to erupt in order to protect ourselves and our families. He wasn’t afraid to stereotype in this article mainly because guns and gun owners carry a lot of stereotypes. At the end of the article he shows joy when his teenage daughter proves the firearm instructor wrong by sliding the action with no problems, not typical for most women. He also shows a sense of joy and pride when his daughter is interested in taking shooting lessons because they both understand the statistics that involve American women and sexual assault.

Confessions of a Liberal Gun owner, was a great article and very cohesive in bonding several points of views together. Mr. Cronin used logic, personal experience, and a sense of a straightforward emotion to express his own views and experience on gun control. The reader takes with them a better understanding of a different point of view from someone you wouldn’t consider owning a gun, let alone citing personal experiences to further persuade them of the benefits of owning a firearm.

Works Cited