The domain is all values that a is allowed to be. Since I can't divide by zero (division by zero isn't allowed, I need to find all values of a that would cause division by zero.

The domain will then be all other a-values. When is this denominator equal to zero?

impossible , then the domain of r is $(-\infty,\infty)$ i.e. $a\in\mathbb{R}$

 $2 a^4 + 16 = 0$