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Analyzing Badge

Part 1:

But increasingly, research into the culture and political views of gun owners is painting a very different portrait. **Gun owners' politics *don't* generally fall into lockstep with the NRA—but guns themselvesare woven into people's lives in ways that go far beyond a tool.** This suggests that the path to gun law reform won’t be as simple as liberals might hope or conservatives might fear.

In part because of their danger and allure and in part because they're the center of a sporting culture with deep American roots, **guns draw adherents together in contexts like expos, gun ranges, and online chatrooms.** **At the recreational level, participants can indulge in hobbyist debate and discussion; on a political and cultural level, they can also forge a shared commitment to armed citizenship.**

Part 2:

The main idea of this text was to show how both sides of the gun control argument in America do not fully understand each side’s views and argument. Last year, guns became the leading cause of death in young people, which was previously occupied by vehicle-based deaths. This helped further ignite the debate on gun control, but both sides of the argument do not fully understand the other. In a 2019 essay from Austin Sarat and Jonathan Obert called “What Both Sides Don’t Get About American Gun Culture,” they mention that “gun owners’ politics don’t generally fall into lockstep with the NRA” and that “guns themselves are woven into people’s lives in ways that go far beyond a tool.” (pg 2) Many people think that gun owners have them purely for self-defense, but this quote suggest that guns have become a lifestyle for some people. This point is furthered when they say, “guns draw adherents together in contexts like expos, gun ranges, and online chatrooms.” (pg 2) Gun owners are so deeply connected to their guns that they find ways to talk about them all the time, which may not be so obvious to people outside of this circle. This “bonding” over guns is strong that these people think new gun laws is the government trying to take their guns away from them. In reality, the government is not trying to take guns away from people, they are just making the laws related to purchasing and owning a gun more strict.

Part 3:

Overall, this badge helped me better figure out how to find the main ideas that a writer is trying to get across and how to properly analyze them, rather than what I was doing in high school or at my previous university.