In the Washington Post's article titled "1,005 people have been shot and killed by police in the last year," the authors describe the results and revelations that have come from the Post's log of fatal shootings by police in the United States, which they started tracking in 2015. They begin by explaining that it is necessary to aggregate data from different sources as opposed to just relying on police records. Since it is voluntary for police departments to report fatal shootings, their reported numbers are far below reality. From there, they dive into the data and show trends, like the fact that the rate of police shootings has been consistent over the past several years, or that young men and people of color are disproportionately the victims of such incidents.

The Washington Post does not take a particular stand on what should be done in light of the data they have collected over the years. Instead, they offer an objective report of what the numbers mean and demonstrate through the data how horrific the police violence issue is throughout the United States. They display the data in various types of figures throughout the article, such as a map with circles indicating where fatal police shootings over the past year have occurred. These figures drive home the fact that the problem that has plagued America for too long shows no signs of getting better. Additionally, the database embedded at the bottom of the article allows the reader to understand and explore firsthand the extent of fatal police shootings. Through the graphs and database, the Washington Post ensures that readers are aware of the scope and details of the issue that has taken so many lives throughout history.

There are several ways that this article applies to concepts of software engineering. The fact that the Washington Post is able to accurately aggregate data from so many sources is a testament to the power of modern technology. In the past, relying on the data reported by police stations and word of mouth would have been the only source of truth, but with new technology,

media outlets and individuals are able to shed more light on this issue, which ideally can bring about positive change in the future. I believe that in this case, it is the responsibility of the software engineer to ensure that this data is objective and does not pull from sources that might skew the data in one direction or another. There are many reasons that third parties may want to influence the trends of such data, such as for political gain. By ensuring that the code implemented is foolproof and checked often for accuracy, software engineers can help inform the country about real circumstances occurring around them. As a future software engineer, I hope to follow the lead of the Post in making sure that any external data I rely on is reliable.

The database that the Washington Post has put together is also a testament to the power of modern software engineering. While the graphs and figures provided throughout the article help the reader understand the trends of fatal police shootings, the database makes the content more personal. It provides names, ages, whether or not the victim was fleeing the scene, and more details about every incident they have recorded thus far. By making this content interactive, they are able to evoke more empathy from the reader, who can search for names they might have seen in the news and read details about horrible murders that have occurred at the hands of police. In this way, software engineering is being used to organize the collected data in a way that is both bleak and informative.

Additionally, something often discussed in relation to the topic of police brutality is body cameras, which can record a police officer's actions and provide accountability in cases where, previous to this technology, it would be a "he said she said" situation. Even though such groundbreaking technologies are now available, they have not dramatically improved the situation, as shown by the graphs in the article. While there are probably a few different reasons for this, one of them is resistance to change. Police stations and police officers are reluctant to

utilize these new technologies. I believe it is the responsibility of the software engineer to come up with new ways to make the technology more intuitive and accessible, so that there are no excuses for not using all resources available to hold officers accountable.

For example, one current issue with body cameras is that footage is often lost or not recorded in the first place. By making changes to the way that the footage is streamed and saved from body cameras, it is possible for software engineers to make it harder for incidents to be covered up by evildoers or for technical difficulties to mean that there is a lack of evidence in an important case. In my future career as a software engineer, I hope to think about the issues I am trying to solve before beginning to fix them, so that I understand the full extent of the problems and can consider different angles and perspectives on what would be the most useful features of my product.

Technology and software engineering have dramatically influenced the way that we understand and view the fatal police shooting problem in the United States. By aggregating information from different sources and ensuring that information is reliable, everyone in the country can have a better understanding of the problem and how it affects different populations within the country. Through an interactive database, the Washington Post has taken the accessibility of the information they have gathered a step further, as readers can search and click through the information to understand more and answer any questions they may have. Furthermore, through technologies such as body cameras, software engineers can play a vital role in making sure there is accountability for unjust murder. As a future software engineer, all of these points will impact the way that I think about my code and the influence it may have on others.