The following is a sample analytical summary. Make sure to first read the article (in the Sample Analytical Summary 1 file). I’ve put in red those moments that might be considered “analytical.” In other words, rather than just summarizing what the reporters write, the red indicates my analysis on the writers themselves. Also pay careful attention to how direct quotes are used. It is ok (and even encouraged) to use direct quotes as part of the summary.


* Quick note on citations. Notice that there are TWO dates. The first date is the date of the article (when it was published). The second date is the date that I went and retrieved the article from the web. This citation is in MLA format. If you are going to use APA then follow the APA rules.

In a New York Times article dated April 16, 2007, David Johnston and Neil A. Lewis report on the continuing scandal over the United States’ Attorney General’s office dismissal of eight United States attorneys. The current U.S. Attorney General, Alberto R. Gonzales, had been preparing for his testimony in front of the Senate hearing committee when the justice department released the testimony one day before Gonzales was scheduled to speak. The article points out that this may be a public relations strategy on the part of the Bush administration. Johnston and Lewis do not point out, however, how exactly this early release of the testimony might be used. The basic content of the testimony reiterates what Gonzales has been claiming since the beginning of this scandal: that he was unaware of what had been going on, that his memories of certain events remain “fragmentary,” and that “nothing improper occurred here [in the Justice Department].” The article does not go into specific detail about the contents of the testimony. Instead, we are given a few small quotes that are supposed to stand in for the overall content.

Johnston and Lewis point out that the scandal has created bi-partisan opposition to the Attorney General. Along with a “string of Democrats [ ] some Republicans have already called for Mr. Gonzales resignation.” Early Senatorial responses to Gonzales’ pre-testimony transcript have been equally harsh and negative. While the article tries to create a context for the Gonzales scandal, by pointing out the problems of Paul D. Wolfowitz – “another figure who has played a major role in the Bush administration” – the article also implies a certain guilt by association. If Wolfowitz is guilty then, certainly, the article implies, Gonzales must be guilty as well.