

**Writing Assignment #2**  
**National Government**  
**Spring 2008**

The president, for many people, is the one single entity that embodies America – its history, its potential, and its people. As such, we expect many things from our presidents, and those things can sometimes be contradictory. When a president acts in such a way that it violates our expectations, the American people can become disillusioned with not only the presidency, but also with those things that the presidency represents. For this assignment, first read the article on presidential paradoxes. Then read the two articles on the president's personal morality. All of these articles can be found in the online course reserve at the library's website. First, explain why these paradoxes exist. Next, do these paradoxes exist in how we view presidents' personal morality? How? Be sure to use examples from the latter two articles to support your answer. Finally, the latter two articles focus on a president whose personal morality is questionable. Currently, we have a president whose personal Evangelical Christian morality is often the focal point. Do the paradoxes that Cronin and Genovese highlight apply in the same way, or do they act differently? Explain your answer. This paper should be three to four pages in length.

\*\*The first reading is from the Woll *American Government: Readings and Cases* text, while the second two readings are from the McKenna and Feingold *Taking Sides* text.