

Purpose and Audience Examples

Example #1

Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and wounded a campaign contributor during a weekend quail hunt on a friend's South Texas ranch, local authorities and the vice president's office said Sunday.

The wounded man, 78-year-old Harry Whittington, was in intensive care at a Corpus Christi hospital after being hit by several pellets of birdshot Saturday afternoon, hospital spokesman Peter Banko told CNN. (Bash 2006)

Example #2

At a brief news conference prior to his release from the hospital today, vice-presidential shooting victim Harry Whittington thanked the hospital staff and the media and had this to say about Dick Cheney: "My family and I are deeply sorry for all the Vice President Cheney and his family had to go through this past week."

It says everything you need to know about this administration that the deepest regret and most heartfelt expression of contrition about the incident came from...the guy who had been shot in the face.

Check the transcript: in his 30-minute chat with Brit Hume, Cheney's lamentations were all directed at himself: "The image of him falling is something I'll never be able to get out of my mind...It was, I'd have to say, one of the worst days of my life."

I'm sure it wasn't too swell a day of Harry Whittington, either. (Huffington Post 2006)

Example #3

Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot a man during a quail hunt...making 78-year-old Harry Whittington the first person shot by a sitting vice president since Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton, of course, was shot in a duel with Aaron Burr over issues of honor, integrity, and political maneuvering. Whittington? Mistaken for a bird. (Stewart 2006)