Reading Number 56

from Public Opinion and American Democracy

by

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p. 388, ¶2, line 15– “In an earlier day public opinion seemed to be pictured…”

p. 388, ¶ 2, line 18– “These weird conceptions… passed out of style…”

p. 388, ¶ 3, line – “Despite their power as instruments for the observation…”

p. 389, ¶ 2, line 8– “Fundamental, is a regard for public opinion, a belief that in…”

p. 389, ¶ 3 (entire ¶ on the bottom of page 389 and top of page 390)– “If an elite is not
to monopolize power and thereby to bring an end to democratic practices…”

Instructor’s Note: Was that restraint evident in the election of 2004?

p. 390, ¶ 3, line 2– “A degree of social diversity thus, may be, if not a…”

Instructor’s Note: Is the leadership of either major political party diverse?

p. 390, ¶ 4, line 5– “…we have shown that in the United States the political…”

p. 391, ¶ 3, line 1– “Analytically, it is useful to conceive of the structure of a…”

Question: What are “opinion dikes”?

p. 392, ¶ 2, line 1 (+ next 2 sentences)– “In one of their aspects the dikes of opinions
have a substantive nature in that they…”

p. 392, ¶ 2, line 9– “On the other hand, other types of questions arise within…”

p. 392, ¶ 2, line 13– “Probably quite commonly mass opinion of a permissive…”

p. 392, ¶ 4 (the whole ¶ on the bottom of page 392 and the top of page 393) “The
argument amounts essentially to the position that the masses do not corrupt…”