**6:30 a.m.** You are awakened by your clock radio.

**6:35 a.m.** You step outside to check the temperature and weather and breathe in some fresh air.

**6:38 a.m.** You go into the kitchen for breakfast. You pour some water into your coffeemaker.

**6:39 a.m.** You flip the switch on the coffee maker and it works with no issues.

**6:45 a.m.** You sit down to breakfast with your family. You are having eggs.

**7:00 a.m.** You go into your newly renovated bathroom in a house that you own.

**7:02 a.m.** You use the toilet and flush it.

**7:20 a.m.** As you are getting dressed, a glance outside the window shows some ominous clouds. You check the weather on your TV.

**7:30 a.m.** Before you leave home, you take your pills to control your high blood pressure.

**7:45 a.m.** You put a couple of letters in your mailbox.

**7:50 a.m.** You and your child walk across the lawn to your car and arrive without getting dog poop on your shoes.

**7:52 a.m.** You help your young child into your car and you pull out of your driveway and are on the road.

**8:15 a.m.** You drop your child off at day-care.

**8:55 a.m.** You arrive at work and take the elevator.

**9:00 a.m.** You work at your job.

**Noon.** For lunch you have your usual sandwich and microwaveable cup of soup.

**12:45 p.m.** After lunch, you walk to a nearby ATM and get some cash out of your account.

**1:00 p.m.** Back at work you hear rumors about a new downsizing plan being talked about by management – you think about what life would be like if you are one of the people that loses their job.

**3:00 p.m.** On a break, you call your elderly mother in the hospital to check on how she is recovering from her broken hip.

**3:10 p.m.** You call to arrange for a physical therapist to work with your mother when she comes out of the hospital.

**5:00 p.m.** You leave work—right on time.

**5:15 p.m.** You stop at a local gas station to fill up.

**5:30 p.m.** As you drive home, you notice the tree-lined streets and the nice houses in your neighborhood – you are happy to have such a nice place to live.

**5:35 p.m.** As you approach your house, you see your child coming down the sidewalk.

**5:45 p.m.** You go for a jog in your local public park.

**6:30 p.m.** You take your family out for dinner at a local pizza restaurant.

**7:30 p.m.** Back at your house. You settle in for a quiet evening at home.

**8:00 p.m.** You do a quick check of your email – just one of the many services you enjoy over the internet every day.

**11:00 p.m**. You go to bed.

**4:00 a.m.** You are still asleep in your comfy bed. Unlike that time you stayed in a small inn in Costa Rica, where you were woken up regularly at 4 in the morning by the roosters crowing in the neighborhood!

Adapted from Government is Good: An Unapologetic Defense of a Vital Institution by Professor Douglas J. Amy, Mount Holyoke College