Literature to Film   Constructed Response for *Mystic River*
Dr. Seller

Directions for your Constructive Response to *Mystic River*

- After you have read each of the constructed response questions below, select one to answer. The constructed response verbiage is listed below to assist you in this process.
- Responses are graded on quality not quantity, looking for thinking in your writing, and reflection on the article above.
- Use the film *Mystic River* to explore the characters and storyline in order to provide support for your answers and to properly address the questions.
- You may compose your response in a *Microsoft Word document*.
- Make sure to include your name and hour attached to your work.
- Email your assignment as an attachment or within the email your instructor. Subject line: *Mystic River* Assignment

Option One
Karma is a Hindu and Buddhist philosophy according to which the quality of people's current and future lives is determined by their behavior in this life and in previous lives. Apply this theme to the main characters in *Mystic River;* Dave, Sean, and Jimmy, support how Karma affects or does not affect their lives.

Option Two
The Mystic River is a river that flows into the Boston Harbor, which is considered to carry many secrets with it. What comparisons and references appear in the film to allude to the river being an additional character in the movie? Interpret the meaning of the title *Mystic River* for the film. Think about how the Mystic River could be a metaphor or analogy for the story.

Option Three
What makes Dave the easy target for the pedophiles and the most likely character in the story to get into the car? What is it about Jimmy and Sean's personality that suggest they aren't good candidates to get into the car?

Key Verbs and Tasks used in Constructive Response
- Analyze - Examining carefully by looking at the different parts of the whole and figuring out how they are related to each other.

- Apply - Using what you have learned to demonstrate show, or relate something.
- Compare - Using examples to show how things are similar.
- Contrast - Using examples to show how things are different.
- Evaluate - Making a judgment backed up with support.
- Infer - Making and educated guess or hypothesizing... reading between the lines.
- Interpret - Explaining a possible meaning of a text
- Paraphrase - Putting the author's ideas into your own words
- Predict - Using information available to make an educated guess about future events
- Summarize - Presenting the author's main ideas in a shortened form
- Support - Using specific facts to "back up" your answer, utilize details and examples from the text.
- Synthesize - Combining several ideas and making something new