Chapter 2 Assignment

I chose the following films, The Lovely Bones, Con Air, Double Jeopardy, Mind Hunters, Escape Plan, and Death Warrant for this assignment.

I chose *The Lovely Bones*, because it is significantly similar to with my film. In this film you get to see the family angle, all the things that a family goes through when something tragic like a kidnapping or murder happens. You see the desperation, and anger a family might feel. In watching The Lovely Bones, you can see how the family is so anxious to find out what happened to their loved one, and how bad they want to find out who did the awful crime. Sometimes you get to the point, where you are willing to do anything to get the answers you want, as well as the justice. Families want closure and it doesn’t matter how they get it sometimes. The father was a great character to watch in this film. He shows many examples of how some families react to these situations. He not only almost drove himself crazy but also his wife, who eventually decides to leave for a short time, because she can’t take his obsession anymore. Sometimes the police can’t find all the answers and cases go cold. In this film, the father tried helping the police to check them out. The case also took over the father so much that the police had to tell him to stop. He was really just putting himself and his family through excess suffering, because he wouldn’t let it go, and understand that they may never have the answers they want. In my film I want to use a character like the father in *The Lovely Bones*, so you can see that people get so desperate for answers that they are willing to go to an ex-con for help. In *The Lovely Bones* you can also see that traits of a murderer or kidnapper. You can somewhat see how their minds works and how the think. You can compare the way they act to the way normal people would act. You can see what they get out of their crimes, and how doing harm to others makes them feel. You may also see why they choose to do crimes. This movie has a number of relatable pieces that I want to be seen in my film. I want you to see the family’s view, so you can really understand how it must feel to be in that situation. I want people to see just how far a family goes, just to get some answers, whether it’s who done this crime or just where their loved one is. I also chose this film because it shows how much murder can change a person. I wanted to get a good picture of all the characters and their reactions to this crime. Many people react different to crime like kidnapping and murder. In this film you saw the father and his reaction, the mother who really was with it in the beginning, then later couldn’t deal with it anymore. You also saw the siblings deal with it, in their own way. I studied the actions of the family, friends, police, and even the one who caused these actions. All they films I chose were relatable in their own way. And you could connect to the characters very well. As far as in *Double Jeopardy*, the difference in this film is that normally after being wrongfully accused, it’s very hard to get back on your feet once released. No one wants you to work for them, or with them. And people barely want to talk to you if the know you have been in prison. People don’t trust you and don’t want to be around you, because they may be afraid of you. However in this film the wrongfully accused was a woman. And a difference in this film and my film is that, this woman was not so much trying to get back on her feet. While in prison she found out that her husband, who she supposedly killed was alive and hand their son. Once she was released she only wanted her son back, which is the conflict of this film. In my film the men that are released are trying to get jobs and get their lives back on track. And like *Double Jeopardy*, in my film there will be a wrongfully accused character. Not only was I able to study the prison scenes, but it was good to see a women’s prison, and how the women acted. Just like in the Lovely Bones, when you want or need answers you are willing to go to great lengths to get them. In *Double Jeopardy* the main character violated her parole, and was willing to take the risk of going back to prison just to find her son. Even while she was in prison, she pretended to be someone else, to get information on where her friend was with her kid. In this film her husband was on the move, from one city to the next, changing his identity every time. Which made finding him more difficult, but there are always clues left behind. I also studied the husband’s character, who was the antagonist in this film, while the mother is the protagonist in the film. The film feels I a thriller film, and the characters are very relatable. There are people in the world who have been in this situation or a similar situation. I think all the characters were well played.

Also I chose *Con Air* because I can see the different ways the characters portray prisoners. I studied the different inmates and the different types of criminal activity they did. I was able to get a good idea of how a prisoner acts and the different traits they have. In watching this I wanted certain characters to be in my film, some brought excitement in comedy to the film, while others brought action and drama. I also want criminals who are in prison for small crimes in my film, and not really big crimes like murder. In *Con Air* there were criminals that had psychological issues, which made them hard to get along with. You had to be one step ahead of them at all times. Many criminals are smart, which is why it is difficult as times to catch them. I also want that smart criminal in my film, but to use them for good and not bad. Using their smarts to help catch other criminals would be a good twist to things. Also like in the movie *Con Air*, I want that one person that gets out of control, and who can barely be stopped. I want that certain someone who wants to ruin things for the others, so they can cause a conflict in the film. This character was the antagonist in *Con Air*. He brought a lot of drama to the film and was a really good character to have in the film. Con Air is an action film the key turning point started early in this film, when the convicts created a disturbance on the plane to take it over. I felt the film worked very well, it was able to gain and keep your attention the whole way through. In *Con Air* most people may not relate to the prisoners, but they may relate to the protagonist. The main character who is a good person, and who wants to just help the situation has the same characteristics as the characters in my film. Just because they have been in prison, doesn’t mean they are going to continue to do bad things once they are released. Some differences in this film and my film are that the prisoners in my film have all been released and are choosing to do good for others. My characters are not trying to escape or harm others to get something. I chose the movie Mind Hunters because it’s about solving crimes. However, these are students and not ex-cons, but I wanted to take note of what to look for when it comes to solving crimes. Ex-cons know crimes, because that’s what they have done before. Who better to help solve crimes than someone who did crimes and lived with others who have done crimes. By living with other ex-cons in prison, they have an understanding on how others have done things as well as how they were caught. Knowing how someone committed a crime, what they may have done after, and how they were caught, would be beneficial in solving cold cases. With this film I was interested in the way the students analyzed everyone around them, by the clothes they wore the things they had on them and way they carried themselves. I also saw the similarity of time to solve a crime, in both my film and *Mind Hunters*. Time is a big factor when it comes to solving a missing person’s case. When you know that there is only a certain amount of time to solve a crime, it helps you to think more clearly, and react faster than normal. Not only does time help you think in solving a case, but money also will help. In my film, the ex-con will possibly get reward money if they get answers for the case they work on. When you’re doing something for money, it makes the stakes higher and you want to do it more. Things like money will make you work harder and want to solve the problems you have. Sometimes you may need a little motivation if you’re not dealing with something or someone close to you. In *Mind Hunters* mind games were being played with each of the students, while they tried to guess who was setting all the traps for them. Sometimes when criminals feel they have control of the police or a certain person, they start to play games with them. Trying to get into their minds and make them think one way, when it’s really the other. In my film I don’t want to deal with simple criminals, when it comes to their minds. Also in *Mind Hunters*, the student’s weaknesses were used against them. Using your weakness is a good way to throw the mind off, and to remove your focus. This was a really good movie, which had a lot of good ideas on how a killers mind work, and how as a student you study people’s characteristics to know what type of person they are. I also watched *Escape Plan*, which was different from my film because it was about a man trying to get out of a maximum security prison. But also while watching this film I was able to study how the prisoners acted. How they treated each other, and how the prison was different from the other films I watched. Each movie showed a wide range of acting as prisoners. This movie mostly had prison scenes which was good to see, because I wanted to show some flashback scenes in my film. Many times there were fights in the prison and some people were able to get along, while others didn’t care for each other. Sometimes there were certain people in charge that were prisoners, but the other prisoners listen to them. There were groups of inmates, mainly divided by their nationalities. In this film you saw the different groups come together at some point. I felt there were two protagonists in this film, which were Stallone and Schwarzenegger. And the characters were relatable, because you do whatever you have to, to get the answers you want. Like this film, in *Death warrant* there were also a lot of great prison scenes. *Death Warrant* was different from my film, because it was about a cop going into prison to find out why other prisoners were dying. *Like Escape Plan, Death Warrant* also had many prison scenes. I enjoyed seeing the different types of prisons. The conflict of the film is that while Van Damme is in prison, the same guy he put in prison gets placed in his prison and he has to get out before he is killed. In this film Jean Claude Van Damme was the protagonist while sandman was the antagonist. This film was an action film. I think most of the characters were relatable, there is always someone who wants to be the good person and help the situation, while there is also someone there who wants to ruin things for others. In both of these films the main characters were stuck in prison, and wanting to get out, which is what the characters in my film also wanted. The wrongfully accused character in my film, might have the same feeling as both of these men. There were a lot of benefits to watching all these films. I was able to see the different way a prison system is ran. The behavior of inmates to others as well as to guards. I was able to see how the different criminal minds work. And how the innocent people worked to prove their innocents. All of these films worked very well, I don’t think any of these films failed in anyway. They were all interesting, and had a good conflict, which added action, suspense and drama.