ESOL Students’ Writing from Visit to Mystic River
Teacher: Jeri Bayer, the Welcome Project, Somerville, MA

Today
By Wedman
Today the weather is very beautiful and we are here to learn something about the Mystic River and relax. I feel good when I listen to the story about some places. Here I hear a lot of sounds. I hear the different bird sounds, I hear the sounds of cars. I see the river’s waves; it’s very pretty. I see the beautiful flowers. The trees’ flowers have come out. In this moment I feel a little bit of wind. It’s so beautiful. I remember when I was in Haiti I went out with friends, especially on May 18 because it’s a celebration of the Haitian flag. Some schools usually go out with students to relax and learn some stories about other cities in Haiti. It was very beautiful.

By Marie-Jude
Today, it’s a pleasure for me to pass this moment outside because the place is very beautiful, natural, and calm. I hear the birds singing, I see the movement of the river, the fresh grass. I feel the little wind and watch the visit of the geese. All of these things make me feel very comfortable. I think this kind of activity is very important for us because sometimes we need to change our minds with something else. In fact, I very appreciate the class today because I have enjoyed it so much and I sat thanks to Jeri for her creative senses.

By Cherlyne
Today I want to say what I have in my heart. I don’t regret to be with you, because I feel outside my solitude. With my tender teacher it is always a discovery, a surprise. She teaches us by playing. Take for example, now, we have gone to the park. It is my first experience in sun in a long time. I am with my friends next to a river. Sometimes I sit nearby a sea, but never a river, until now. According to me, it is a good experience because I hear the different sounds: animals, cars, trees, a little bit of waves from the river. And I mix the sounds. I close my eyes and I imagine that I can smell the nature.

In the Park
By Tanka
I hear bird sounds when I’m sitting in the park.
I feel the sun’s heat.
I took a yellow flower.
This park is beautiful. Here are many trees and green grass.
We are near the Mystic River.
The sky is clear and looks blue.
I hear vehicle sounds. We are near a highway.
We took pictures of each other with digital cameras and a friend’s cell phone.
Here are some birds.
Their names are geese.
The Mystic River is quiet.