**Writing Prompt:  Severe weather has the potential to cause death and destruction.  Based on the details in these texts, explain how severe weather forms and how it is predicted and tracked by meteorologists.**

**Exemplar Response**

Have you ever looked outside and seen a big ugly dark cloud?  If you have, then you have observed the beginning of severe weather.  Tornados are one type of severe weather that meteorologists predict and track.

Thunderstorms form from low pressure systems or because of differences in the temperature of the air above the Earth.  Thunderstorms often include precipitation such as hail, rain, high winds and thunder and lightening.  Tornadoes get their start from rotating thunderstorms. This often occurs in the midwest, in an area known as “Tornado Alley”. This is where cool, dry air from the Arctic mixes with warm, humid air from the Gulf of Mexico.

Meteorologists are able to predict and track severe weather using radar and by understanding global wind and weather patterns.  Fair comfortable days occur when there is a high pressure system and stormy days occur during a low pressure system.  Radar detects the the precipitation in approaching storms.  Radar also  tracks the formation and path of tornadoes.

Meteorologists are able to predict and track severe weather, such as tornadoes, by using radar technology.  High pressure and low pressure systems interact to create severe weather.  Knowing how severe