Task Prompt: Students will explore habits, strategies, and attitudes of narrative poetry writers. Each student will use imitation strategies as he or she plans and drafts a narrative poem, based on an event from his or her life.

**The Ice Rink**

After “Footsteps to Follow” by Kelli Carter and “Mail Call” by Adrienne Jaeger

I rejoice
The terrible seasons have come to pass
Spring, summer, and fall
I freeze
As the weather falls into a cold abyss
Soon the snow will fall as beautiful as a thousand crystals

Happy day
My cold renewal service is here
We lay down the perimeter
Add plastic, add boards
With lights in the trees
Two feet high boards,
And 24 by 48 colorful lights

I skate and I slide
As I sharpen my skills
With all of my friends
Who can skate...or slide
I can survive another year

I melt
Why have you betrayed me to spring? Winter?
Don’t let spring kick away the snow
The ice is getting smashed apart
Why does evil spring bring flowers and sun?
It’s melted my life, put away the pucks and hung my gear,
Winter why did you betray me to spring?

Comment [10]: The theme is clear here as the writer questions winter’s betrayal.
This is an example of an advanced 8\textsuperscript{th} grade narrative poem. The writer was guided by the use of questions in the mentor text of “Footsteps to Follow” which he gives credit to, but he steps into another mentor text (“Mail Call”) for the structure while he adds his own craft. The varied use of mentor texts and personal writing choices makes this writing advanced. Overall, he makes very specific word choices throughout the writing which enhances the reader’s
experience in a positive way. The title, though, is a little straightforward while the overall poem’s meaning is much more complex.