

FOCUS Introduction

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Welcome to FOCUS, a new *Programmatic Perspectives* feature that will spotlight key issues in technical and professional communication with short and timely articles on current or emerging issues of interest to our field. We plan to be on—or ahead of—the cutting edge of programmatic theory and principle and provide our readers with information they need to stay relevant and connected. Considering the fast-paced changes in the world of technology and technical communication in recent times, we felt the need for a genre of writing that would address the need to be informed quickly of new developments while also offering insight on these developments. With that in mind we called for articles of modest length for addressing topics salient for the time. In doing so, FOCUS occupies a niche between the traditional research article and the purely journalistic piece and straddles the space between both types of writing.

The first two FOCUS articles, appearing in this Fall 12.2 issue, meet these tenets as they touch on two issues currently spurring academic thought and discussion: St.Amant's article takes a fresh look at the pandemic and the positives that have emerged out of a global catastrophe for technical communication programs. He examines developments in online communication as a result of the pandemic and suggests fresh approaches for technical communication programs to offer solutions globally and create networks for a rich exchange of ideas. The other featured FOCUS article, "Identity, Agency, and Precarity: Considerations of Graduate Students in Technical Communication," was collaboratively written by a team of eight members of the CPTSC Graduate Student Committee. It complements St.Amant's international focus with a focus on local issues in the United States. The piece explores the precarious situations involving issues of labor, citizenship, risk, and oppression in which graduate students often find themselves. It looks to open a conversation on these issues that currently shape their academic existence. We hope you find value in these first two FOCUS articles, and in our series of upcoming features. Please contact the editors with any questions or feedback.