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TECM 5191: Digital Literacies  
**How does Albers' article about single sourcing change your perspective about this class and your future as a technical communicator?**

Albers produces a complex review of how single-sourcing could, and perhaps should, transform the technical communicator profession. By drawing a comparison between writer-craftsman and writer-collaboration, he suggests that technical communicators should adjust the way they view their roles within businesses. This has several ramifications for student technical communicators.

As Albers suggests that technical communicators should delineate themselves more clearly between “junior writers” and “senior writers,” this should challenge educators to prepare their students for intended roles. Through this process, a class such as TECM 5191 becomes an important and integral part of the curriculum. Such a class as this better prepares students to understand the mechanics of what may be asked of them in the workforce, even if they may not initially understand the software a company uses, they will understand the principles and be able to contribute immediately.

Further to his argument, Albers asserts that technical communicators should no longer consider themselves as “writer-craftsmen,” in control of their entire writing project, but instead part of a writing team that works to produce documents that are consistent in terms of sentence construction, tone, and style rather than just blind adherence to a company style guide. This philosophy provides a challenge to educators and students as this means more nuanced teaching is required to better prepare students for the workforce. As industry and technology evolves to require adjustments on behalf of technical communicators, so our education should evolve to better match our preparation so we can bring value to the companies that hire us.

After reading Albers article, I am excited about my future as a technical communicator. I am intrigued by the new position of “information analyst,” where technical communicators can have an integral role in business decisions, client meetings, and project control. If Albers forecasts are accurate, then the future for technical communicators is bright as the value we can bring can increase exponentially. This value technical communicators can bring will only be effective if we have a solid foundation in the new technology and new job requirements as they emerge. While my perspective has not changed, Albers article broadens my horizons and helps my perceptions evolve as I complete my degree requirements.