

# Elizabeth Thoman

*Founder*

## Center for Media Literacy

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For over 30 years, Elizabeth Thoman has been a pioneering leader in the media literacy education movement in the United States. Starting out as a high school English teacher she has gone on to become a leading writer, editor, speaker, teacher, strategist and visionary thinker in the U.S. media literacy movement.

In 1977 she founded *Media&Values* magazine to raise a critical voice on issues of media and society and published it until 1994. The issues now form a major part of the Reading Room section on the website: [www.medialit.org](http://www.medialit.org).

As the founder of the **Center for Media Literacy** (1989) in Los Angeles, she created the first generation of curriculum resources for teaching about media in the US, developed a national distribution clearinghouse for teaching resources in the field (now part of the [NAMLE Marketplace](#)) and organized the Felton Media Literacy Scholars Program, a leadership development and teacher training program in Southern California.

Most recently she coauthored and edited the *CML MediaLit Kit™*, a comprehensive framework for media literacy education based on CML's *Five Core Concepts* and the *Five Key Questions of Media Literacy*.

Known as an articulate and passionate speaker, Thoman has testified before Congress and was one of 50 media and educational leaders in the U.S. invited by President and Mrs. Clinton to the White House Summit on Children's Television. She has keynoted conferences in the US and Canada, including the National Association for Science, Technology and Society, National Catholic Educational Association, Kentucky School Boards Association, the Southern California Psychiatric Society and has presented hundreds of media literacy trainings and workshops nationally and in over 25 states. She has also participated in international media conferences in France, the Philippines, England, Germany and Canada.

Thoman has also been interviewed by Bill Moyers for *Frontline*, and by NBC Nightly News, National Public Radio, CNN, *Time*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *National Catholic Reporter*, Associated Press, the *Today Show*, *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal* among others.

Her articles and interviews have appeared in a wide variety of educational publications including *English Journal*, *Momentum* and *Educational Leadership*. She contributed to *Media Literacy: Transforming Curriculum and Teaching*, the 2006 Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education.

In 1997, Elizabeth was one of four co-founders of the Partnership for Media Education (PME), the predecessor organization of the Alliance for a Media Literate America (now the National Association for Media Literacy Education – NAMLE) As a founding board member of AMLA/NAMLE, she has served as Corporate Secretary from 2001 -2006 and is now Treasurer. She also serves on the Media Commission of the National Council for Teachers of English.

In 2003, she was honored with the Daniel J. Kane Award for lifetime achievement in media and communications by the University of Dayton and in 2006, received the *Leaders in Learning Award* from the National PTA and Cable in the Classroom for a lifetime of innovation and leadership in the field of media literacy education.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, she received an M.A. in Communications Management from the Annenberg School for Communications at the University of Southern California. She holds a B.A. in English from Marycrest International University, Davenport, Iowa, which honored her in 1990 with the Henderson Medal in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of education.

She is also a gourmet cook, an avid gardener and a talented photographer with numerous awards for her creative work in public relations, photography and writing.

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