

## **Congress Present: Using THOMAS**

What are Members of Congress doing? What are their positions on the issues? Follow debate on current issues and learn how your members voted. Explore THOMAS, the Library of Congress Web site for Congressional materials, and become an active participant in the legislative process!

**Audience:** Teachers, curriculum specialists, staff development trainers, media specialists, librarians, and university instructors. (Not suitable for elementary.)

### **Objectives:**

Participants will:

- Know the various sections of THOMAS and their contents;
- Be able to search for legislative information from the 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress (1973-74) to the present.

### **Tasks in brief:**

- Search Bill Text and Bill Summary and Status by subject and sponsor.
- Search for debate in the Congressional Record.
- Find your Member's voting record on a specific topic.
- Examine related resources for educators and students.
- Explore THOMAS as a gateway to related government information.

### **Presentation Format:**

One-hour interactive session (requires Internet-connected computers for hands-on practice)

### **Resources:**

- THOMAS – <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- Legislative Resources for Teachers – <http://thomas.loc.gov/teachers/>