**Whole Class on Supreme Court’s Role in Social Change**

**Discussion Guide**

**Central Question: Was the Supreme Court the right institution to decide issues of**

**Civil Rights?**

When should the Supreme Court privilege the rights of the minority over the will of the majority?

* Was it right to do it in these cases?

What other strategies could civil rights activists have used instead of suing in federal court?

* Could Congress have passed laws?
* Executive Action?
* State/local laws?

Do you feel the Supreme Court should consider public opinion in making decisions related to civil rights?

* If the majority of the public doesn’t want to give minority rights, should the Court force it?
* Should the court follow or lead public opinion?
* Should it not pay any attention at all?

Does the Supreme Court move public opinion or follow it?

* Desegregation (rights of racial minorities)
* Women’s rights
* Gay rights

Should the Supreme Court or elected branches decide how to determine when minority rights should be protected?

* Is it fair to minorities in a state that denies their rights?
* How long should they wait?
* Is it fair to a majority in a state to require them to give an unpopular minority their rights?