 Denied the power of the sword or the purse, the Court must cultivate its institutional prestige. The power of the Court lies in the pervasiveness of its rulings and ultimately rests with other political institutions and public opinion.

Because the Court’s decisions are not self-executing, public reactions inevitably weigh on the minds of the justices...

Opposition to the school desegregation ruling in Brown led to bitter, sometimes violent confrontations.

The political struggles of the Court (and among the justices) continue after the writing of opinions and final votes.

When deciding major issues of public law and policy, justices must consider strategies for getting public acceptance of their rulings.

Resistance to the social policy announced in Brown I was expected.

Enforcement and implementation required the cooperation and coordination of all three branches.

Public opinion serves to curb the Court when it threatens to go too far too fast in its rulings.

... the Court’s power stems from its duty to give authoritative meaning to the Constitution, and rests with the persuasive forces of reason, institutional prestige, the cooperation of other political institutions, and ultimately, public opinion.

The Court can profoundly influence American life. As a guardian of the Constitution, the Court sometimes invites controversy by challenging majoritarian sentiments to respect the rights of minorities and the principles of representative democracy.