

Moot Point

Word of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Dicembre 2020

1. Write five more social issues that people often have discussions about.

- | | |
|-------------|----|
| 1. politics | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

2. Write 5 more platforms that we can use to discuss important issues.

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| a. online forums | d. |
| b. | e. |
| c. | f. |

The subject that causes the discussion, regardless of the platform used to discuss it, is called a moot point.

3. Complete the sentence.

The origins of COVID-19 and how it spread is a _____ among scientists.

4. Choose a moot point from the list below:

1. The COVID-19 vaccine
2. Distance learning during the pandemic.
3. No sports clubs for people in the red zone.

5. Organise a class debate to discuss the issue. Half the class should discuss the advantages of points 1,2 or 3. The other half of the class should discuss the disadvantages. Appoint a chairperson to moderate the discussion.

Use these phrases to help you:

There are huge advantages to...

The main benefit of ...is...

There are massive drawbacks to...

The key disadvantage of ...is...

Teacher's Notes

1. Sample answers: money; education; work; equal opportunities; the economic crisis
2. Sample answers: social media websites; class debates; conferences; essays; interviews
3. The origins of COVID-19 and how it spread is a moot point among scientists.
4. Elicit the pros and cons for each moot point with the class to help them get some ideas.
5. Let the students vote for a chairperson and then simply go round the class letting the students know if they are an A or a B:
A's will put forward the advantages and B's the disadvantages.

Extension activity:

Ask students to write up the advantages and disadvantages of the 3 moot points for homework.

You could direct the students to the UN sustainable development **goals website** to give them some ideas.