

# 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.