

Writing a Research Report

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Billiards

INTRODUCTION

We all love the free time we have from school.

Thesis statement

After our homework and chores are done, we have time for recreation. Many people use this time playing sports, watching television, or playing games. One wonderful game to play is billiards.

BODY

Heading 1: Billiard equipment

Billiard games are played on a rectangular table. This table has rubber cushions around its inside upper edge and is covered with a felt cloth. Also, it is twice as long as it is wide. A billiard table has six holes, called pockets, into which the balls go.

Details

Many billiard games require fifteen numbered balls. Balls one through eight are all solid in color, and balls nine through fifteen

Facts

are white with a colored stripe. Also, for some billiard games, a white cue ball is used. A player uses a cue stick, which is made of wood, to hit the white cue ball into a numbered ball. The goal is to get the numbered ball into a pocket.

Heading 2: Rules for a billiard game

One of the most popular games is called Eight Ball. The game begins with the solid black ball, the eight ball, racked in the center of the fifteen balls arranged inside a triangle. After the break (the first shot), one player shoots only at balls one through seven (solid colors). The other player shoots only at balls nine through fifteen (stripes). If a player hits a ball into a pocket, that player gets to take another shot. If a player misses, it is the other player's turn. After getting all of his or her balls into a pocket, a player must then try to hit the eight ball into a pocket. A player wins by hitting the eight ball into the pocket he or she states it will go into.

Writing a Research Report *continued*

Heading 3: Early history of billiards

Example

Heading 4: History of billiards in the U.S.

Facts

Heading 5: Recent history of billiards

CONCLUSION

Restatement of Thesis

The game of billiards has been around since the 1400s. It was developed in Europe from the game croquet, which is played on the lawn with mallets and balls. When croquet was moved indoors, people began playing it on a table that was made green to resemble grass. By 1600, the game of billiards had become so popular that Shakespeare mentioned it in the play *Antony and Cleopatra*.

No one knows exactly how or when billiards came to the United States, but from an early date the game was popular. American woodworkers were producing billiard tables by the 1700s, and George Washington was said to have won a game in 1748. In 1850, Michael Phelan wrote the first American book about billiards. Phelan, who is known as the father of U.S. billiards, also wrote weekly articles about billiards that appeared in *Leslie's Illustrated Weekly*.

From 1878 until 1956, pool and billiard championship tournaments were held annually, even though after World War II interest in the game declined greatly. The movie *The Hustler* in 1961 helped make billiards popular once again.

For centuries, people have been playing billiards for recreation. This is a very popular game in the United States, and I think it will continue to be played for many years to come.

Writing a Research Report *continued*

Works Cited

Billiards: The Official Rules & Records Book. Iowa City: Billiard Congress of America, 1996.

"Billiards." 1997 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia. Grolier Interactive, Inc., 1997.