**Thesis and Topic Sentences:**

**Although Pi Patel clearly relies upon religion for his survival, I want to argue that the most important factor in his survival is his knowledge and use of rational science. What’s more, I claim that David Hume’s philosophy of rationalism is a helpful lens with which to examine the Pi’s methods of survival.**

**In the center of the novel, just after he makes the discovery of the lifeboat’s storage, Pi makes a list of everything available to him. This list is one of the best examples of Pi’s reliance upon rationalism, and it deserves a deeper look. Not only does Hume explore the use of lists and naming in his majesterial tome The Philosophy of the West, I want to leverage the ideas in Fred Parisi’s book Surviving with David Hume and Other Scottish Philosophers.**

**Pi’s second list is not his own. Instead, it is “written by a British Royal Navy commander,” a fact that leads him farther away from religion and closer to a survival based on science and ‘Western’ philosophy (166). Josephine Schmoe’s article title “The Navy and Philosophy,” provides a vivid example of how much sailor rely upon…**

**In the center of the novel, just after he makes the discovery** of the li