

THE PERFECT MATCH

BY KEN LIU

Choose **one** of these questions to write your essay about. Use the prewritings to develop your ideas. In all cases, use examples from the story and our world today to support your answer.

All the information you need to cite the story is on the printout I gave to you.

Questions

- In this story, Tilly, the automated assistant is able to not only answer questions, but also predict what its users will like. How does that pose a problem in the story and could it do so in our society?
- Notice that there often coupons and deals associated with Tilly's suggestions. What is Liu pointing out by showing this? How does that relate to our society, and is there any problem with this?
- Consider the date that Sai has with Ellen. What is Liu saying about relationships and what is important in building them?
- What is the overall message about a digitally and informationally connected society in this story? What is Liu saying about the benefits and/or dangers of this? Use examples from the story and from life to explain your point.
- What is Liu saying about free will and individual choice: whether or not we have it, the ethics of manipulating it, and our ability to practice it ourselves? Does the argument that he makes about it through this story hold up in our society?
- Toward the end of the story, the Centillion representative says, "In the face of the inevitable, the only choice is to adapt" (38). Consider the last part of the story and the Frank Sinatra song "My Way" (especially the last verse of it) and discuss what this says about Sai's final decision. What does this show about Liu's vision of our place as consumers in this type of society?
 - You may also consider earlier parts of the story that foreshadow this.
 - (Lyrics to "My Way":
<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/franksinatra/myway.html>)