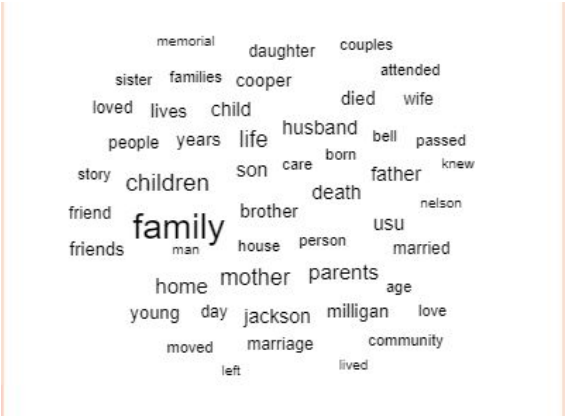
WE1S Key Finding

In student newspapers, parents appear to be supportive instead of demanding.

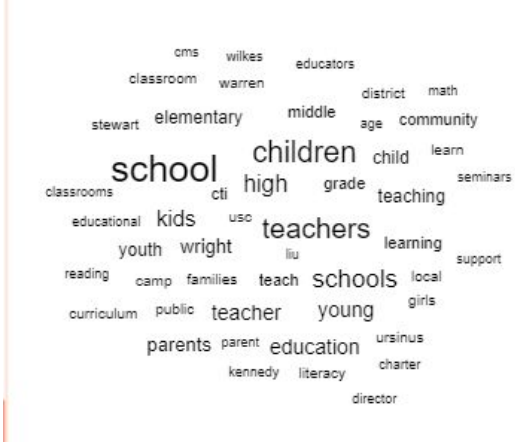
The stereotype that parents are demanding and controlling figures in the college major decision-making process is widespread in popular culture. For example, in Collection 14, Topic 13, (C-14.100) an opinion article written for *The University Star* by an undergraduate makes a passing reference to parents, alleging that parents pressure children "to pick certain college majors...lead[ing] to profitable salaries". However, upon further examination, we find that the keyword *parents* is largely absent from topics related to academics, majors, or classes--as in topic 13 (defending the value of a humanities education), 3, (major distribution in student government), and 100 (general education requirements).

Instead, we find that *parents* appears most prominently in topic 65, which focuses on student obituaries and celebrates how deceased students touched the lives of many in their community, including their peers, friends, and family. (See articles A and B.)



View of Topic 65 in Topic Bubbles

The keyword "parents" also appears in topic 40, which centers around K-12 education. Articles like C and D showcase how communities are strongly invested in fostering K-12 education. The topic suggests that, in the K-12 context, *parents* occupy the same "ecosystem" as *teachers*, *children*, and *schools*, all of which are high-density keywords within this topic.



View of Topic 40 in Topic Bubbles

The fact that *parents* appears in topic 65 (undergraduate obituaries), and 40 (K-12 education), is interesting: it suggests that--while parents are certainly involved in education at the K-12 level--at the undergraduate level, their decision-making influence largely fades. Instead of being authoritative, limiting, or forceful figures in an undergraduate student's life, parents in student newspapers appear as supporting or nurturing members of a college student's community. However, while the data from Collection 14 supports the claim that parents are largely supportive figures, it is important to note that KF 8-x, which analyzes UCSB's human subjects data, presents individual testimonial evidence that contrasts with this card.

Resources
Document Collection Studied: C-14
Topic Model: C-14.100 (100 topics), Start Page
Evidentiary Documentation: [To Come]
Related Cards: KF 8-X (survey); KF 8-X (family)