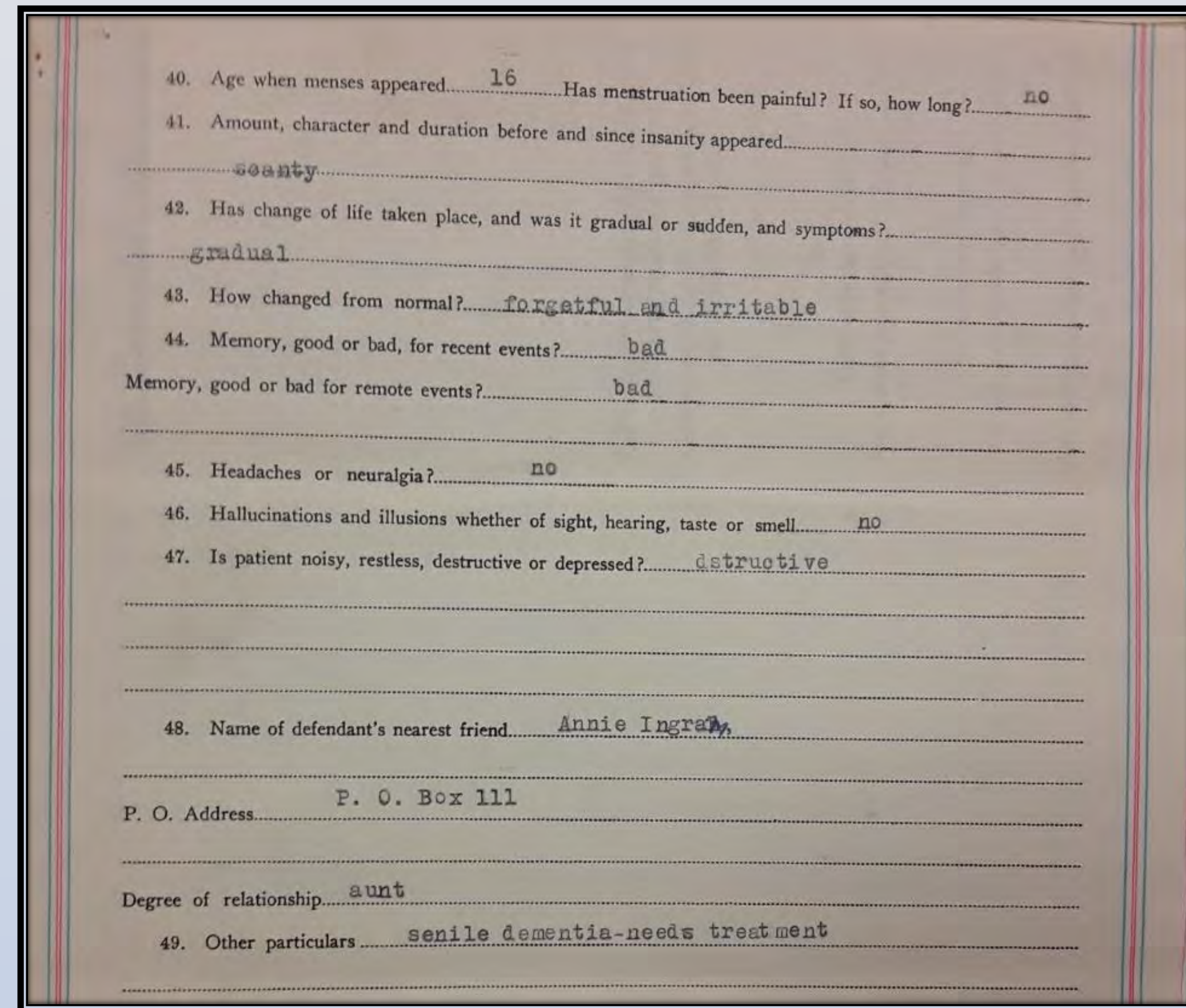


The Things We Don't See

Oppressive Mental Health Language in 1940s East Texas

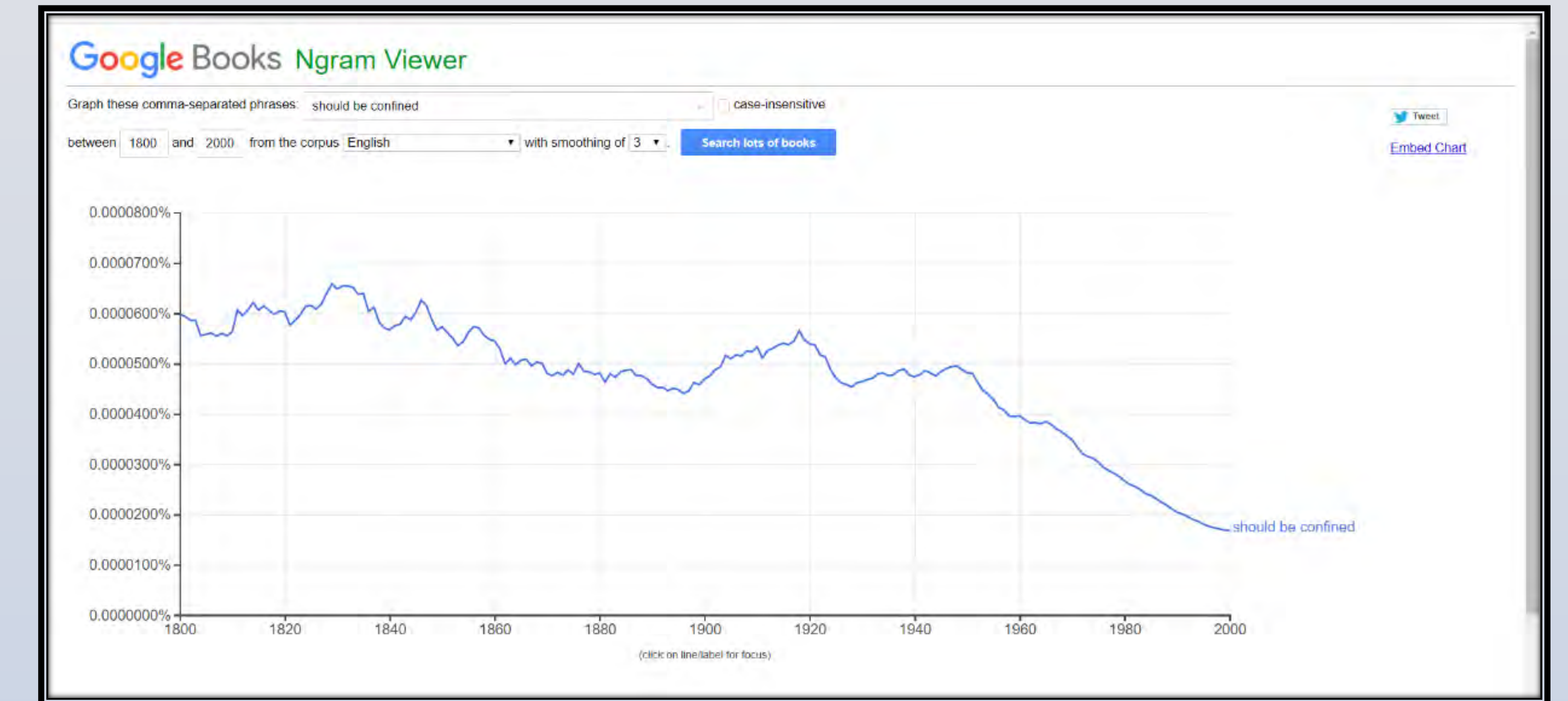
Shannon R. Groce



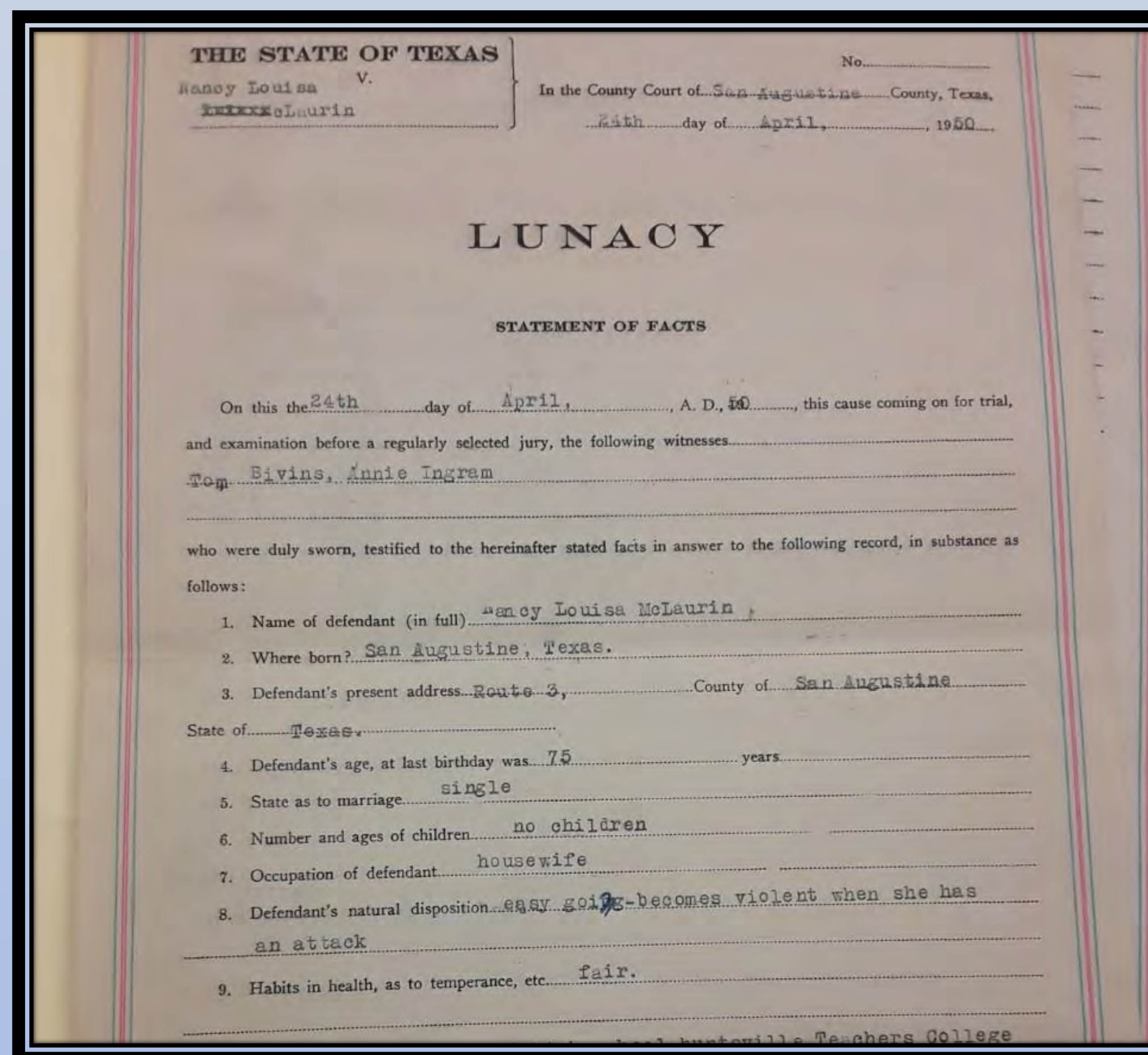
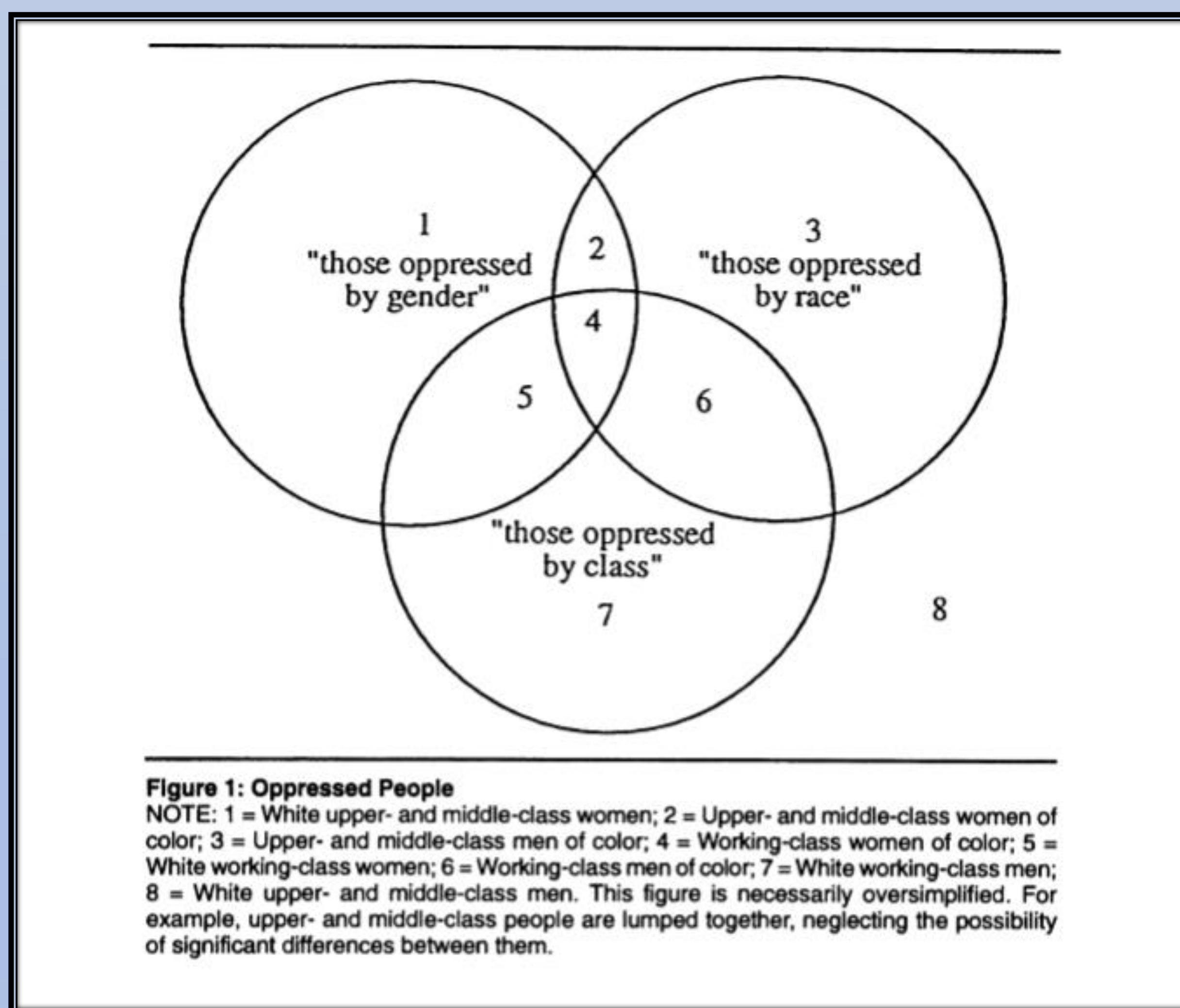
Goals:

In the mental health files I examine, the oppressive mental health language, descriptions, and inaccurate twentieth-century perceptions of female patients will be brought to light and reexamined. It is my hope that, by doing so, the patients who suffered will be remembered, and their stories never again repeated.

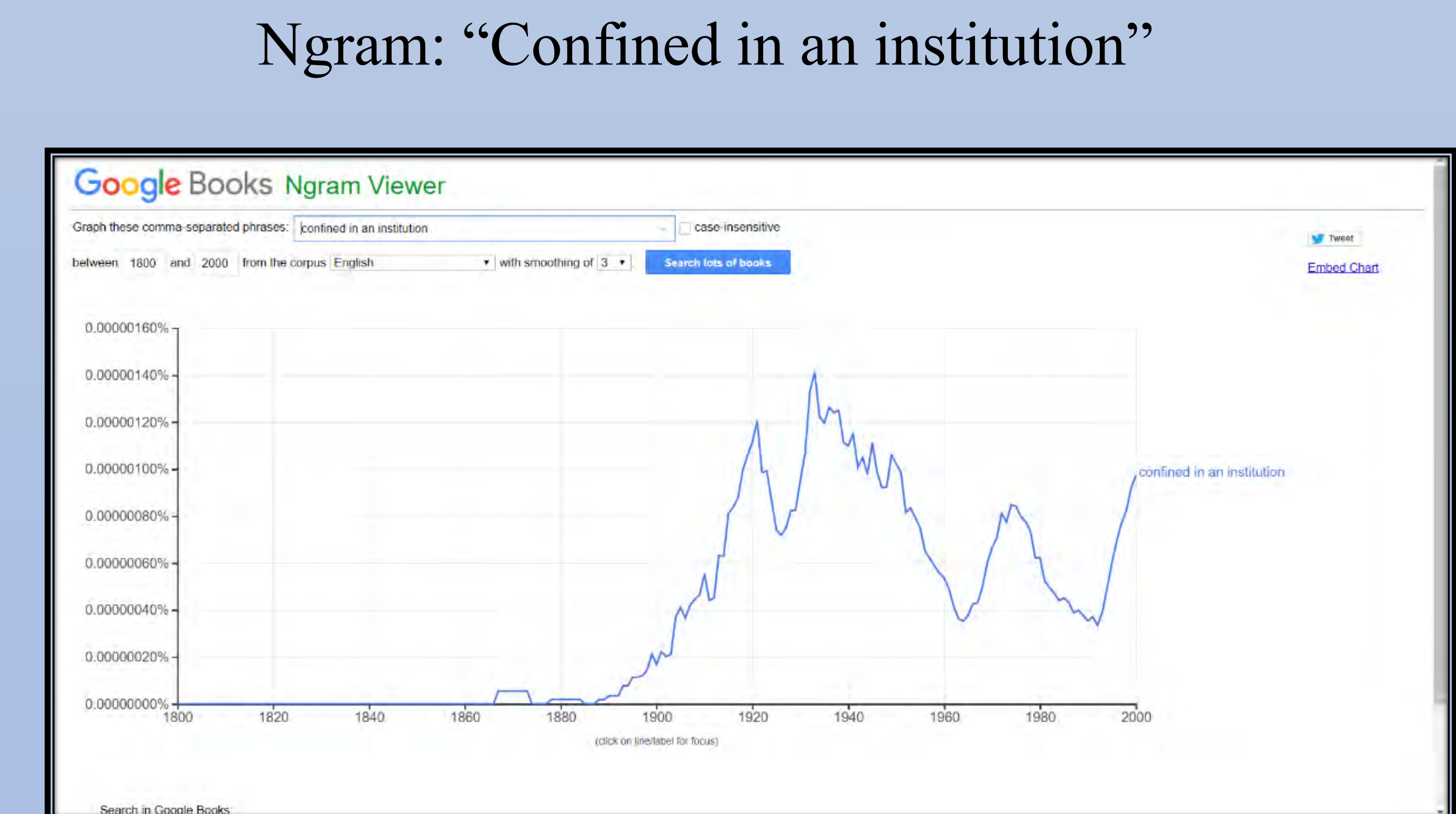
- Author connects female menstruation with insanity
- Document and questions are in template format
- Demonstrates institutionalized oppression



- **“Should be confined”**- common use of the phrase during the timeline of the files
- **“Confined in an institution”**- substantial upward spike in usage of the phrase from 1936-1949
- Documents in template format
- Demonstrates institutionalized oppression



- Language with culturally negative connotations
- Official diagnoses: Lunatic: madman affected by the moon (Oxford English Dictionary)
- Senile: a term mainly associated with women (Hirshbein 12).



- Gender, sex, and class are experienced simultaneously as a whole
- Patients from documents: working-class, Caucasian females
- Documents reveal social inequality has occurred

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