AMANDA GORMAN DATA SET

Analysed by MA DC students in the academic year 2022/2023

What data set have you chosen and why?

- **Amanda Gorman**
  - She is an American poet and activist.
    - Her work focuses on issues of oppression, feminism, race, and marginalisation, as well as the African diaspora.
  - Interest in how she performs her poetry.
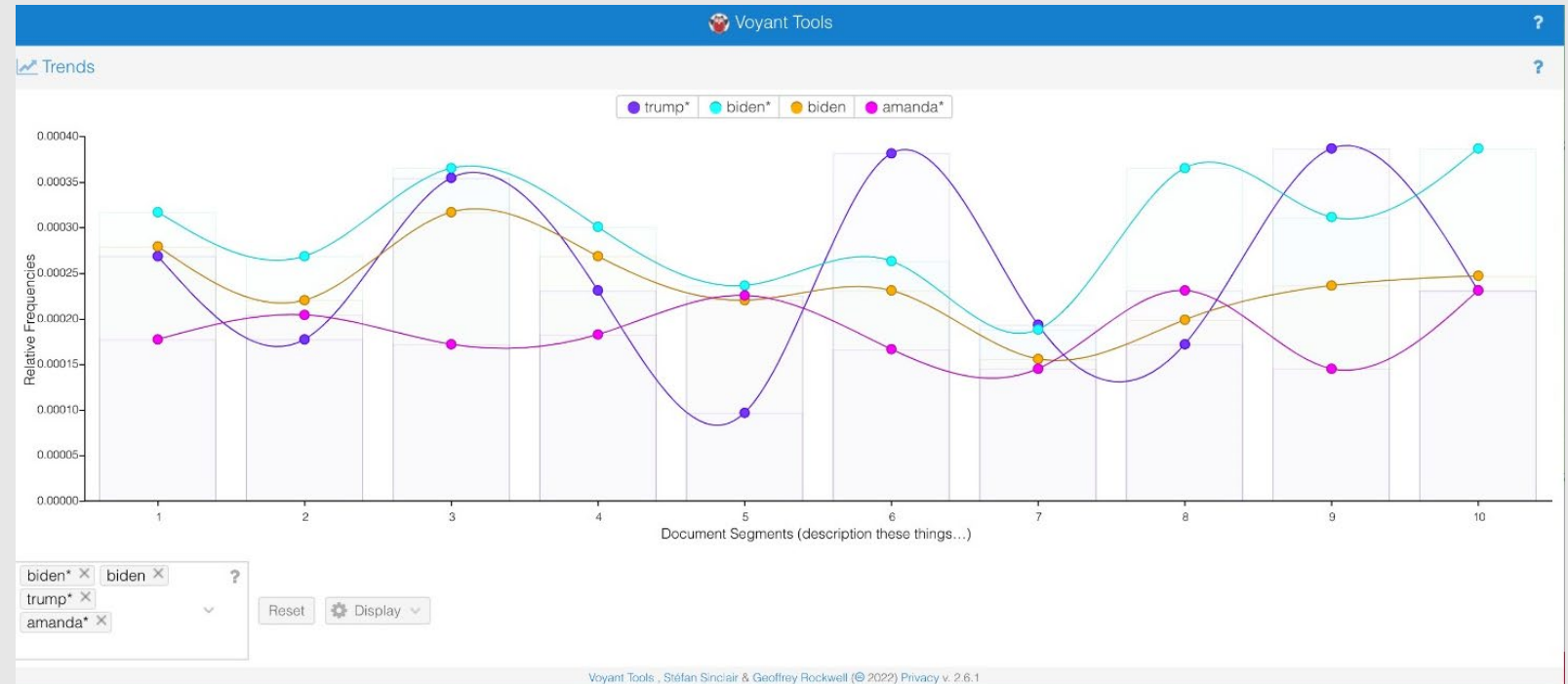 - Interest in the discussion on Biden's inauguration.

What were your first observations? What came up as the central, most prominent themes?
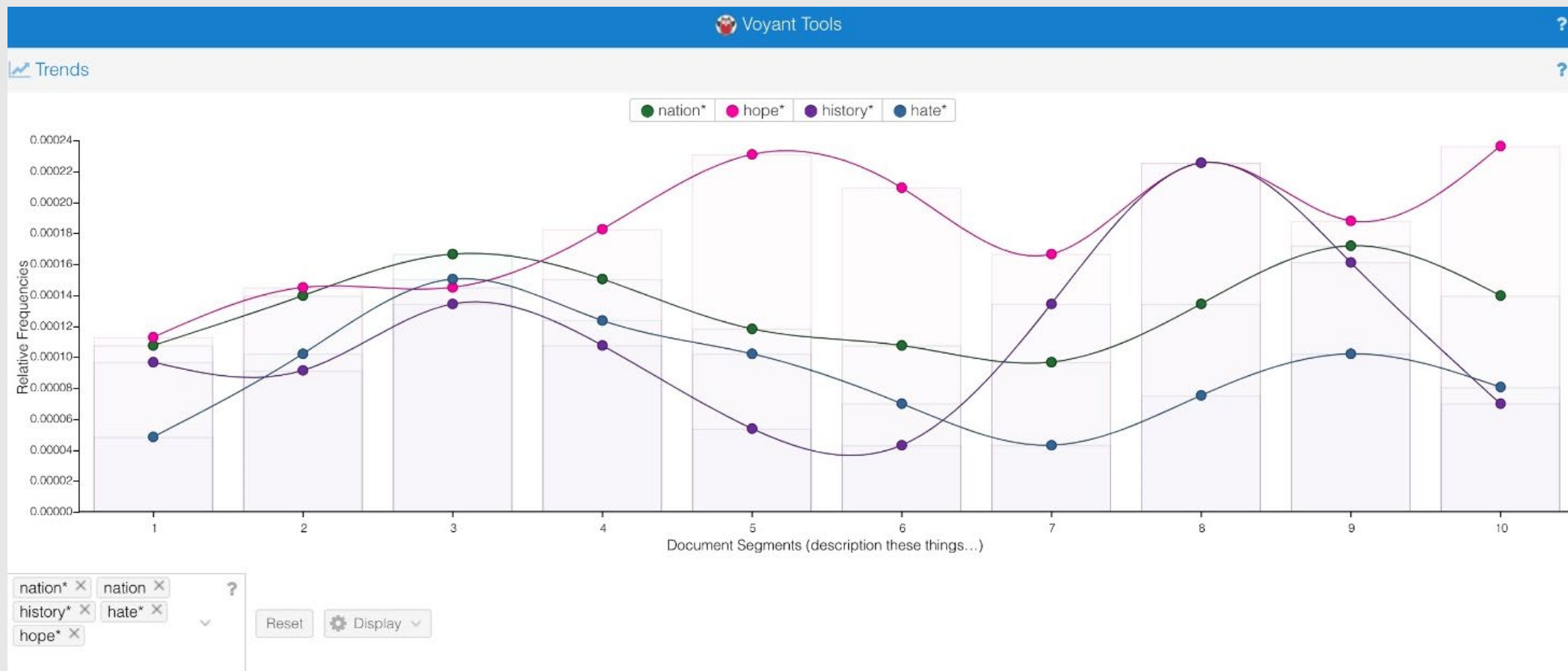
- Trump, Biden and the discussion of the presidential office dominating discussion.
- Discussion around America, nation and country.
- Youth, race and gender are part of the discussion.
- Temporal elements to discussion: "history" and "time" are often mentioned.
- **Most prominent themes**:
  - HOPE
  - RACISM
  - NATIONHOOD

Additional, more hidden themes in the data. How did you find them and why are they important?

- Conversation initially dominated by the election controversy, with Trump/Biden more prominent in the discussion than Amanda.

- Biden consistently mentioned more than Amanda, while Trump's presence in discussion fluctuated substantially and dropped beneath Amanda at multiple points in discussion.

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- **Hope and hate** have a similar presence in the first quarter of discussion before hope eventually wins out to dominate the discussion.

- Discussion of hate correlated with nation. Discussion of hate and nation peaked earlier before conversation turned to hope

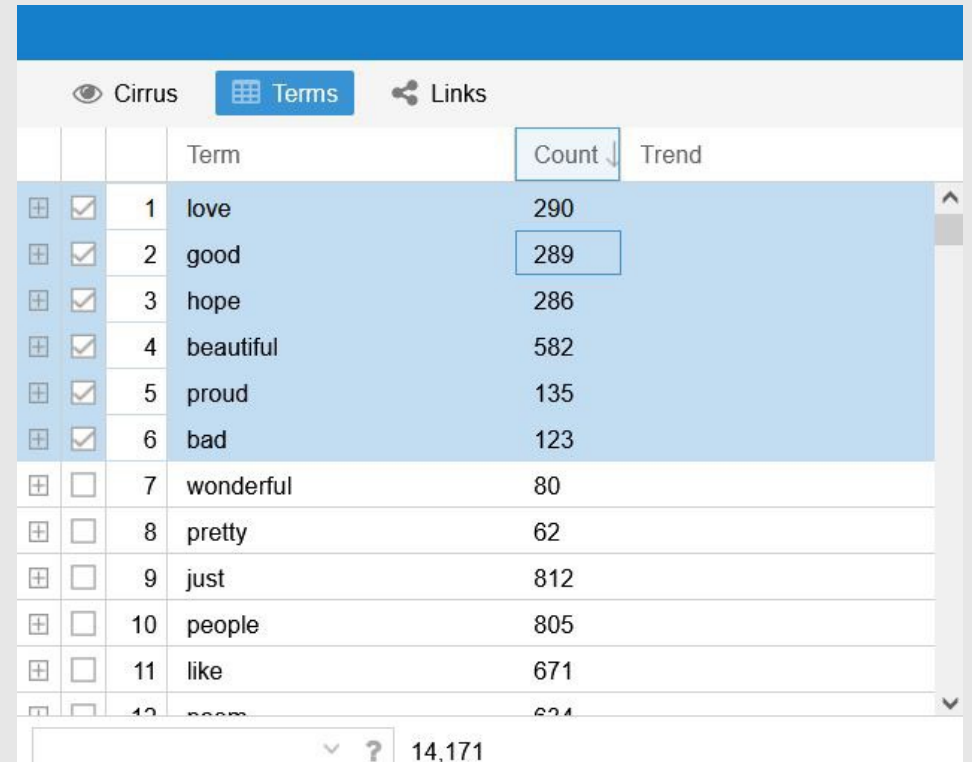- Hope discussion correlating to discussion of the future.

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What has the data analysis taught you about your case study? What have you learned that you would not have seen via close reading?

- **The discussion is not about the poem but about the presidency and the future of the nation.**

- The sentiment is hopeful in the end.

- Ideas of the nation are attached to race.

- And race is a very important part of the discussion around America's future.

Was there anything unexpected or problematic?

○ Problematic: the poem and words of a young black woman have been used as a channel in which to discuss two aged presidents (also white men).

○ The idea of bald heads and wrinkled hands dictating the world in which young people and minorities find themselves can raise a lot of concern.

○ Surprisingly, there were so many overwhelmingly positive feelings at the top of the terms ranking. "Love" was mentioned 290 times, and "good" was mentioned 289 times.

○ The consistent TRUMP talk was also surprising because TRUMP is in the past now – are people out there harping on it and not getting over it?

			Term	Count ↓	Trend
⊞	☑	1	love	290	
⊞	☑	2	good	289	
⊞	☑	3	hope	286	
⊞	☑	4	beautiful	582	
⊞	☑	5	proud	135	
⊞	☑	6	bad	123	
⊞	☐	7	wonderful	80	
⊞	☐	8	pretty	62	
⊞	☐	9	just	812	
⊞	☐	10	people	805	
⊞	☐	11	like	671	

14,171