

Seven Reasons to Consider Using PICA for your Instructor and Course Appraisals

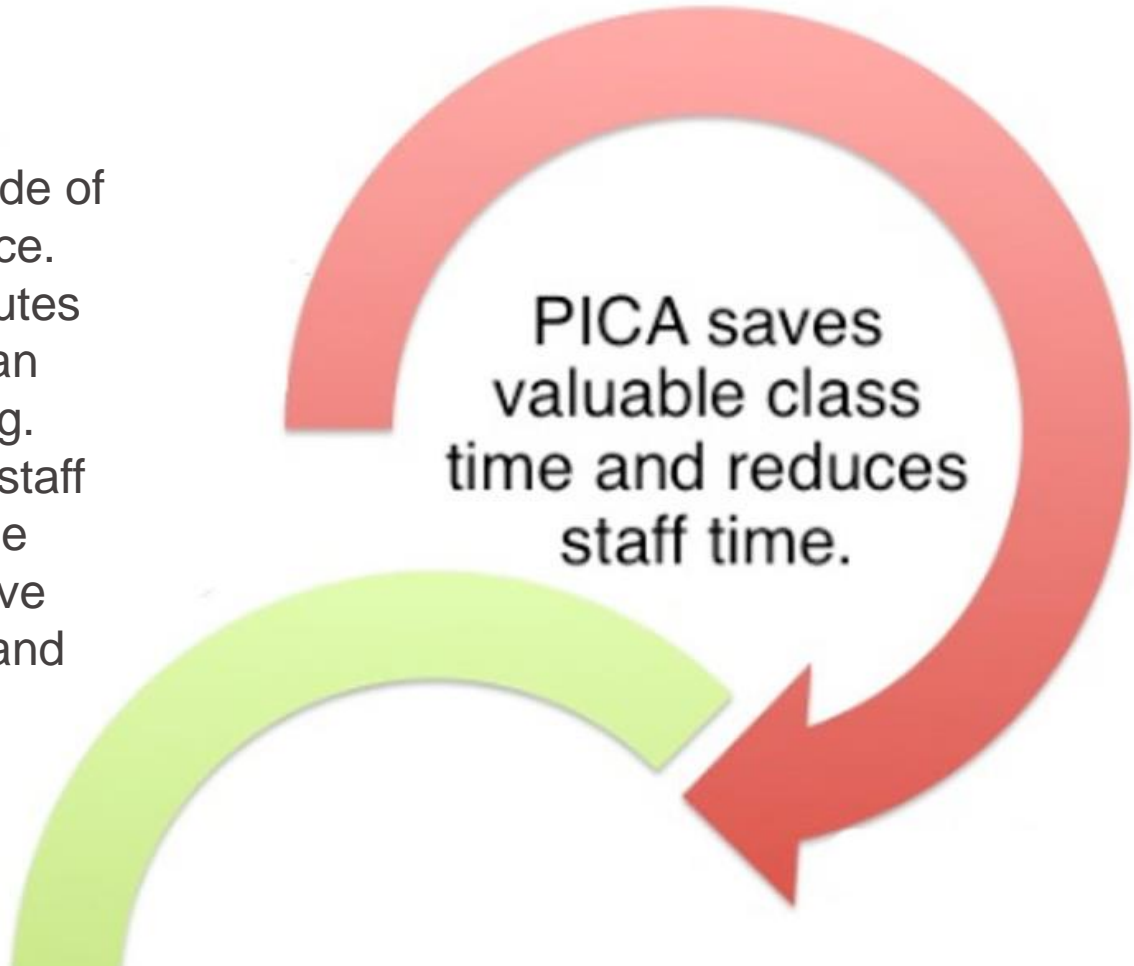
Dr. Mark E. Troy



INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
& EVALUATION
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

1.

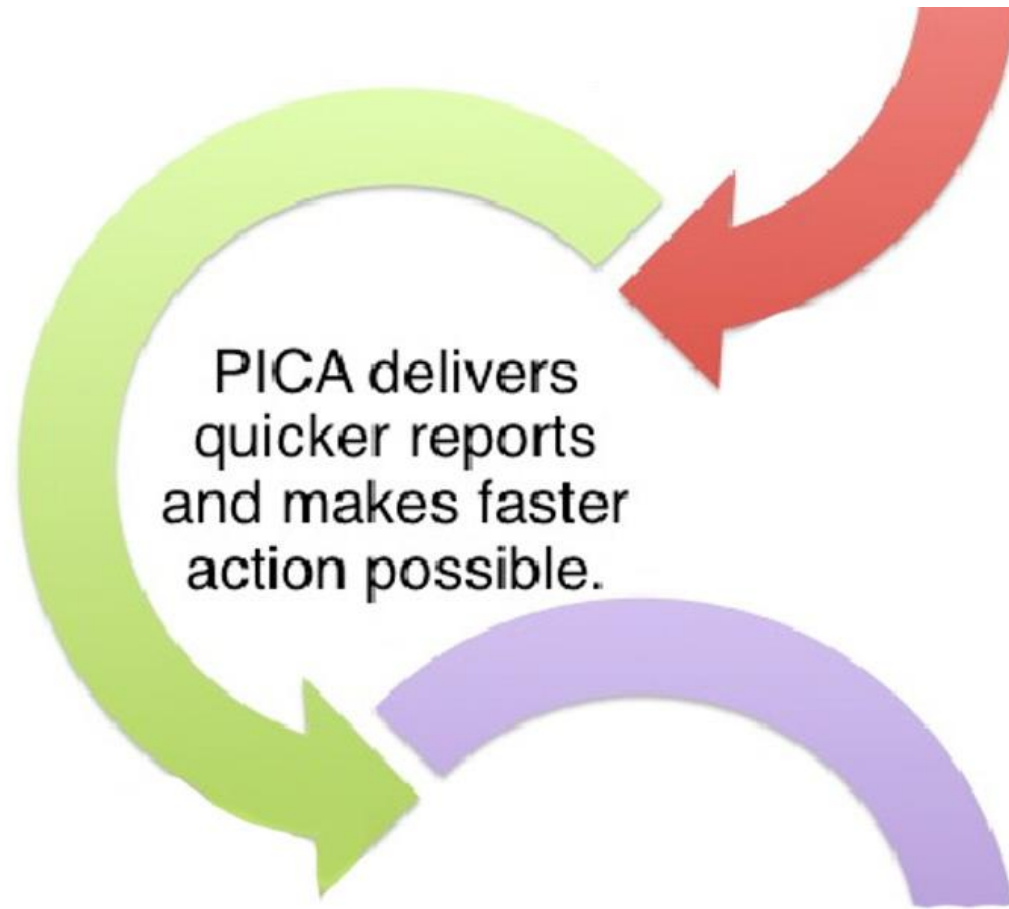
Students can do their appraisals in PICA outside of class at their convenience. The twenty or thirty minutes devoted to appraisals can now be given to teaching. Likewise, departmental staff can free up valuable time that otherwise would have been given distributing and collecting forms.



PICA saves
valuable class
time and reduces
staff time.

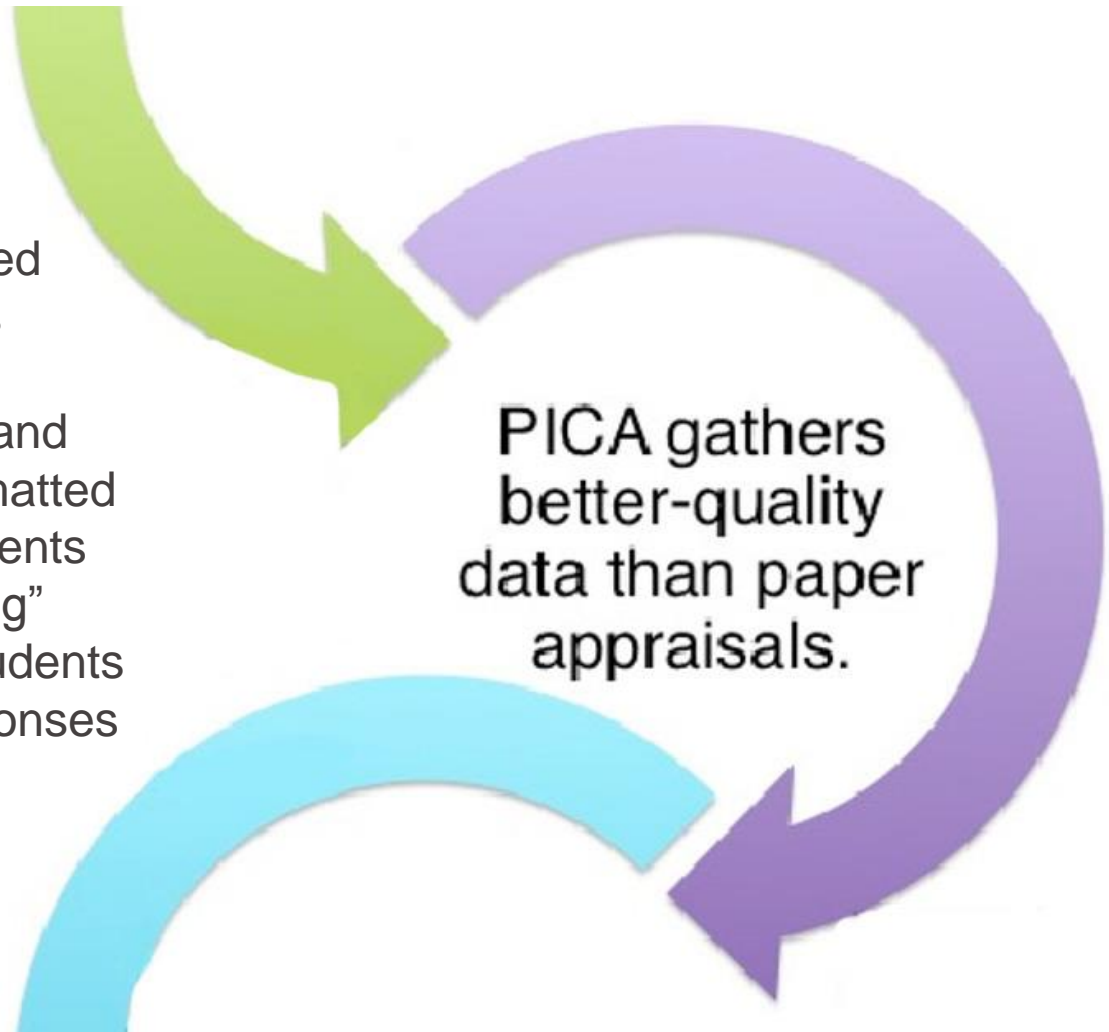
2.

Results from appraisals in PICA are available to you one hour after final grades are due in the Registrar's Office. No more waiting until the next semester.



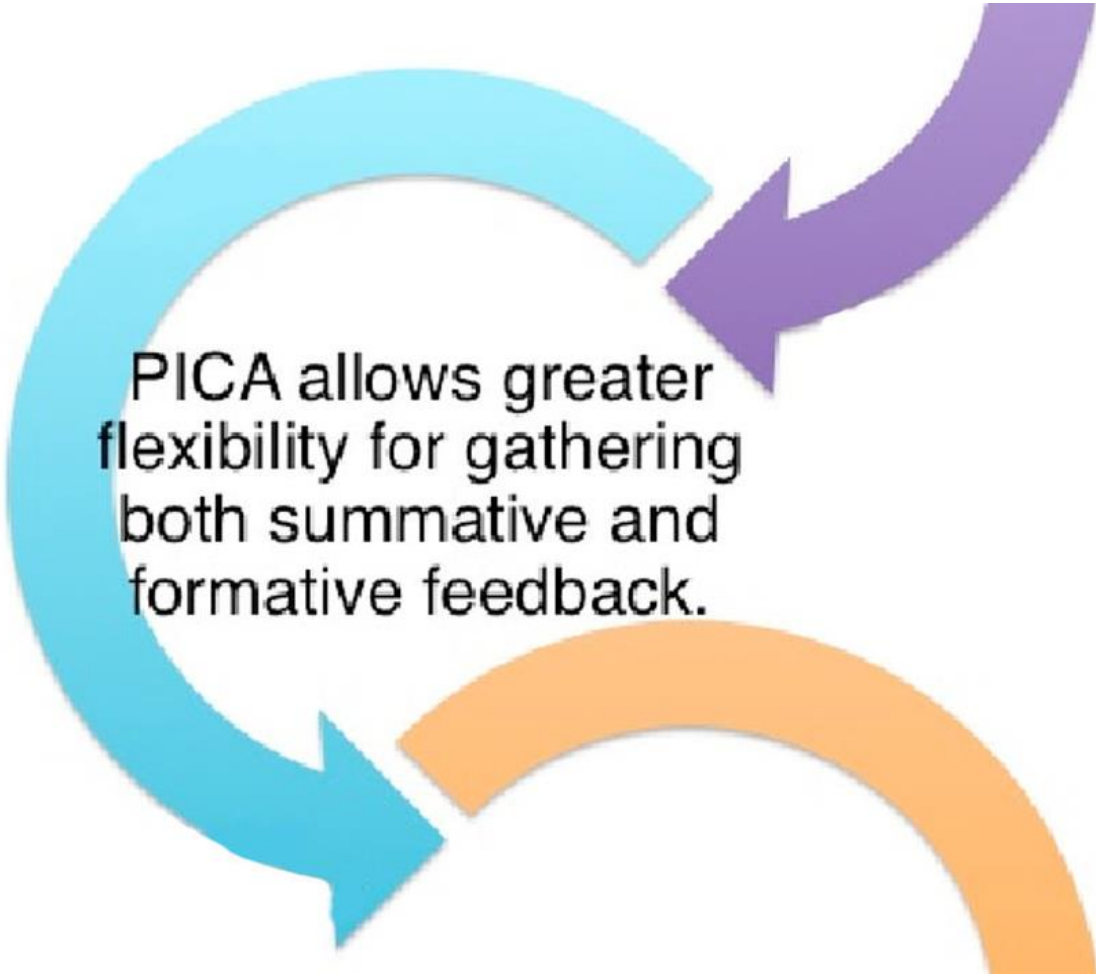
3.

The quality of data obtained from in-class appraisals is questionable due to peer pressure, time constraint and other factors. PICA is formatted to encourage more comments and to make “straight-lining” impossible. In general, students give more thoughtful responses in PICA than on paper. *



4.

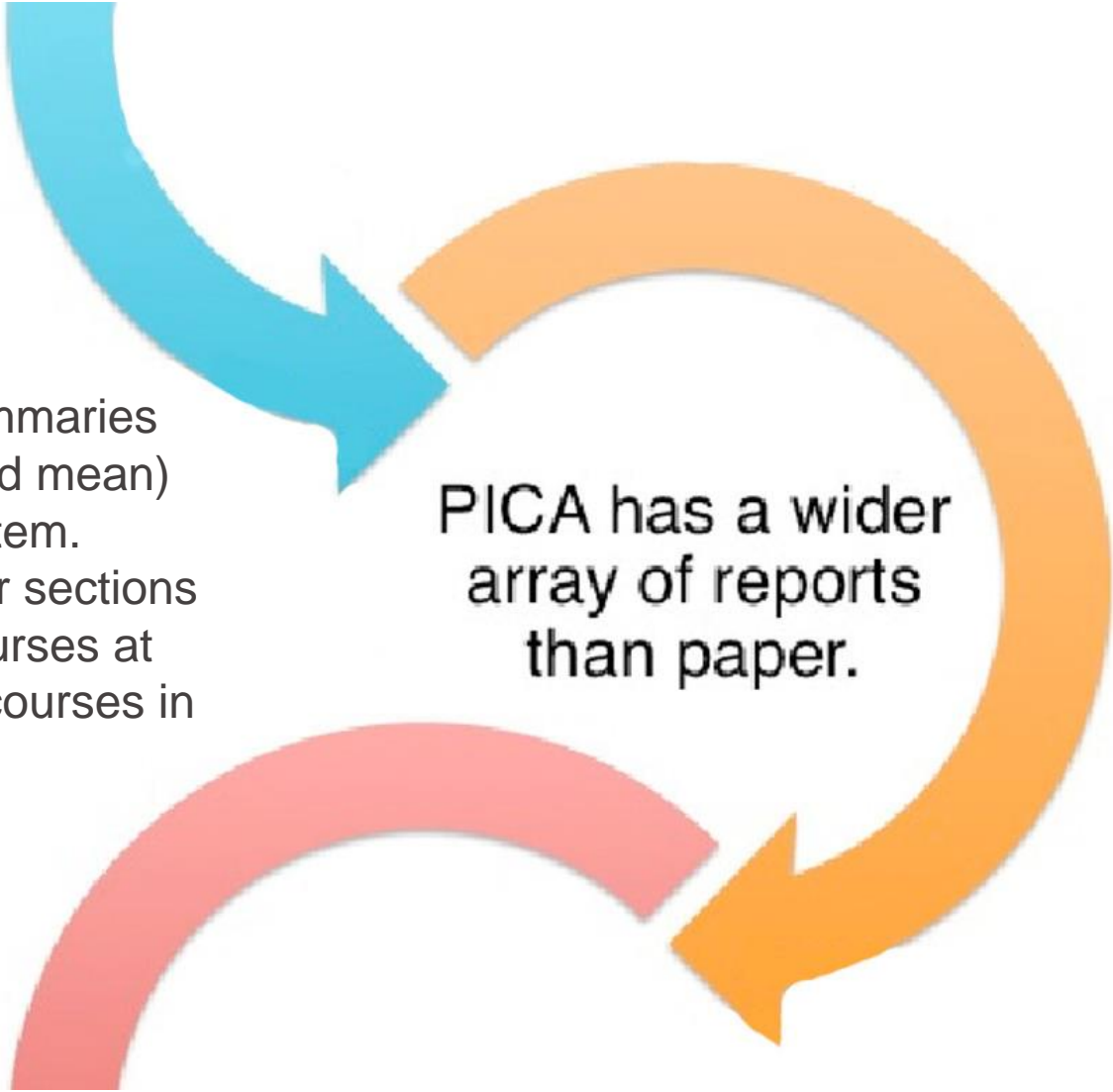
You can add questions to the appraisal to tailor the feedback to your needs. You can also do an appraisal in PICA during the fifth week of the term to assess course progress to that point.



PICA allows greater flexibility for gathering both summative and formative feedback.

5.

- Standard statistical summaries (frequency, percent, and mean) of responses on each item.
- Comparisons with other sections of the course, other courses at the same level, other courses in the department.



PICA has a wider array of reports than paper.

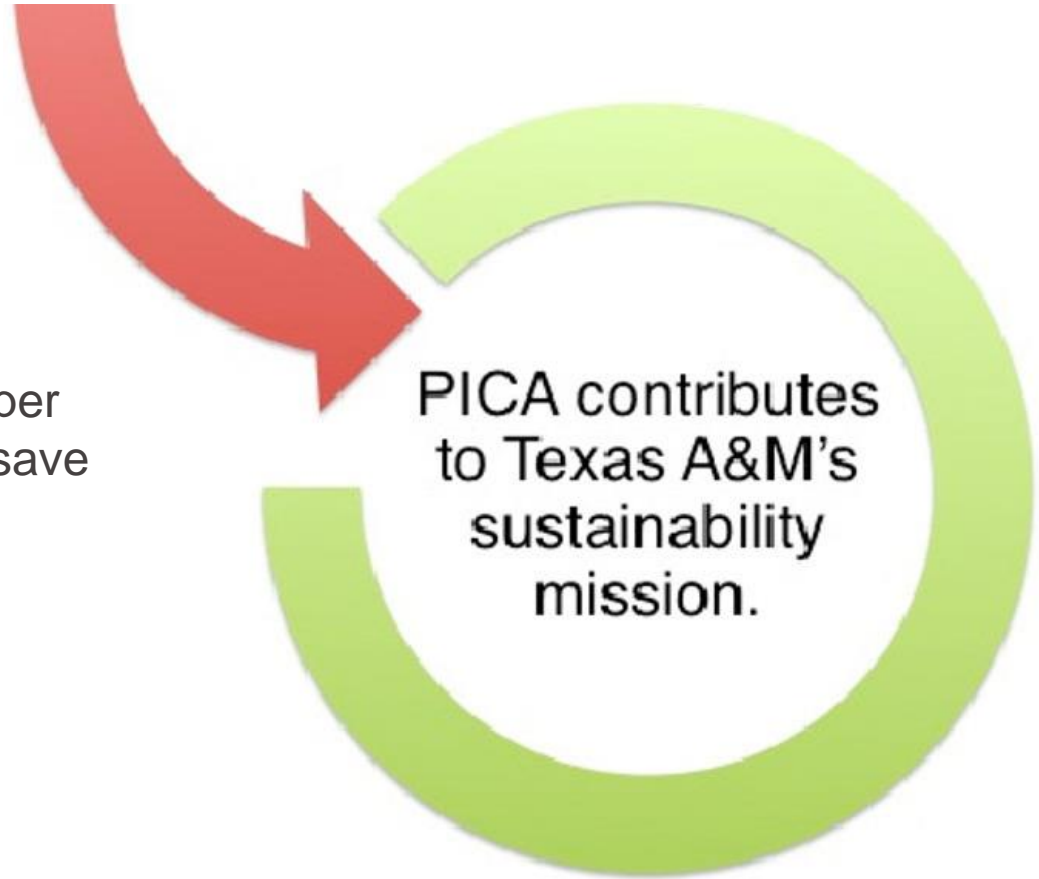
6.

Reports are accessible from any computer or mobile device at any time. No need to wait for the report to appear. No need to search through file drawers for past reports. PICA maintains an archive of all the statistical summaries and all the comments.



7.

Reduce consumption of paper made from wood pulp and save valuable trees. **



* More on the problem of “straight-lining.”

<http://bit.ly/ZovoMC>

** PICA and environmental sustainability.

<http://bit.ly/1wAYB4O>

