Developing a tool for tracking Canvas component usage

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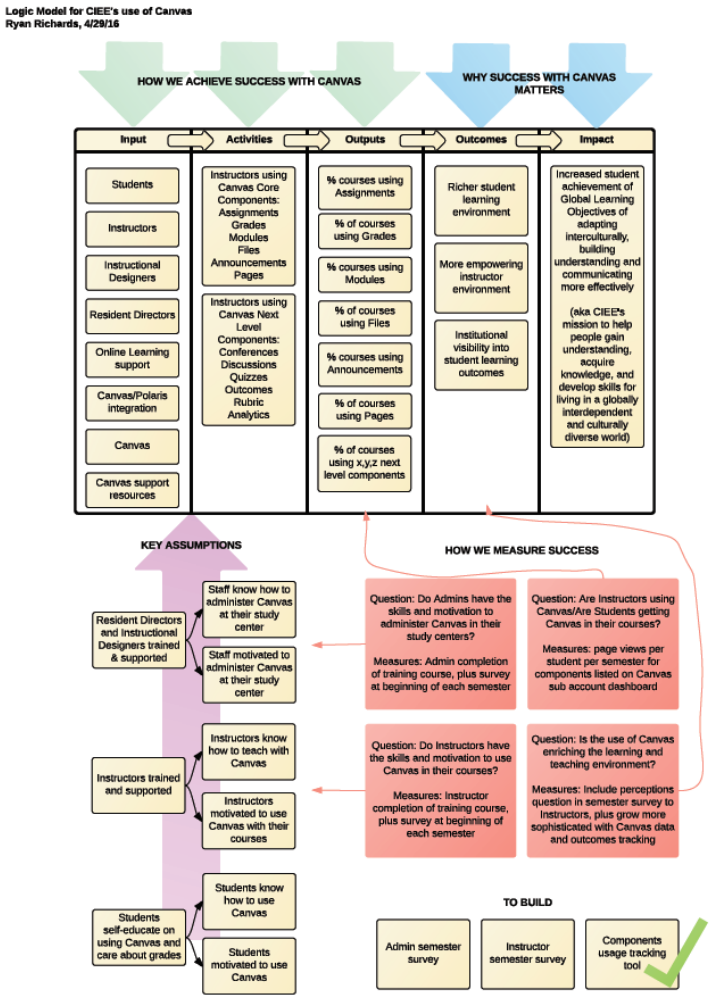
To begin, think for a moment – what are some questions you'd like to be able to answer about your site's use of Canvas?

I did a deep dive into this question and it led me to this diagram. I included a high resolution version in a separate file.



Once I knew the questions I thought were most important, I looked at what data we could access that was both useful and readily available

CIEE Canvas Rollout

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

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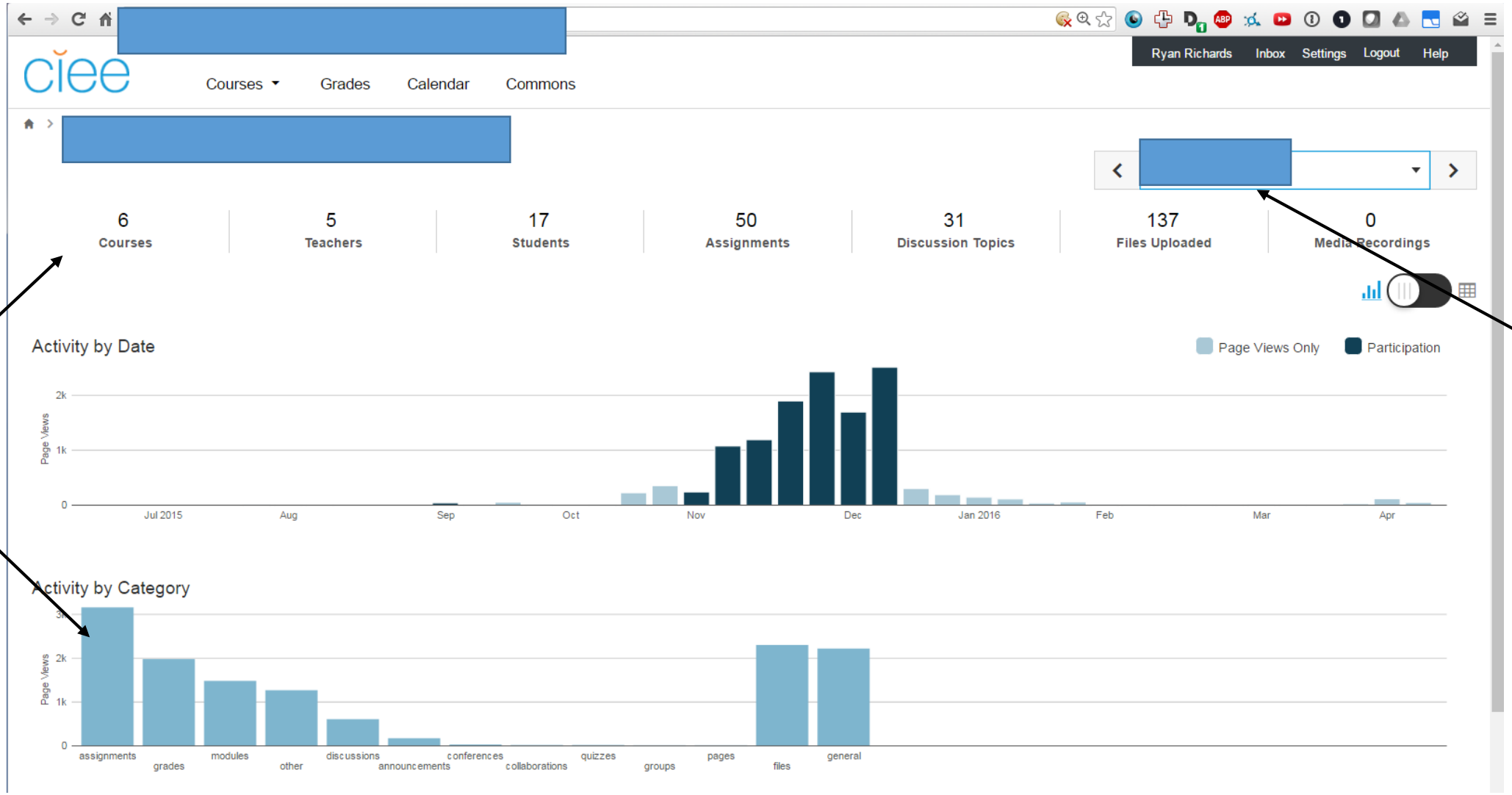
Comments Share

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		CIEE Defined Core Component	CIEE Defined Next Level Component	Available in Sub Account Analytics	Available in Individual Course Analytics	Utility	Ease of Tracking	Verdict for CIEE's Dashboard	Notes
2	Courses	#		#		High	High		
3	Teachers	#		#		High	High		
4	Students	#		#		High	High		
5	Assignments	(y/n)		#, #PV	List of assignmer	High	Medium		use #pv /# students*block multiplier
6	Discussion Topics			#		Low	High		
7	Files Uploaded			#		Low	High		
8	Media Recordings			#		Low	High		
9	Files	(y/n)		#PV		Medium	Medium		
10	General			#PV		Low	Medium		
11	Grades	(y/n)		#PV	grade range per	Medium	Medium		
12	Modules	(y/n)		#PV		Medium	Medium		
13	Other			#PV		Low	Medium		
14	Discussions		(y/n)	#PV		Medium	Medium		
15	Announcements			#PV		Medium	Medium		
16	Collaborations			#PV		Low	Medium		
17	Conferences		(y/n)	#PV		Low	Medium		
18	Groups			#PV		Low	Medium		
19	Quizzes		(y/n)	#PV		Medium	Medium		
20	Pages			#PV		Medium	Medium		
21	Syllabus	(y/n)				High	Low		
22	Conversations	(y/n)				Medium	Very Low		
23	Calendar	(y/n)				Medium	Low		
24	Attendance	(y/n)				Medium	Low		
25	Outcomes		(y/n)			Medium	Very Low		
26	Rubric		(y/n)			Medium	Very Low		
27	Analytics		(y/n)			Low	Very Low		
28	Total Page Views				# per day, # per s	Medium	Medium		
29	Total Actions Taken ("Participations")				# per day, # per s	High	Medium		
30									
31									

I decided that the best data could be grabbed quickly from the sub account analytics for each site



Here and here

Filtered by term

I put it into a data sheet and made some adjustments

Raw data

Calculated for “per student” and adjusted to “per semester” (some of our sites do 3 blocks per semester)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WZ1RRC-c2aP4qOY1GZT75EG0ZtGRV4Jwdi8MU-aFd7U/edit#gid=1576789844

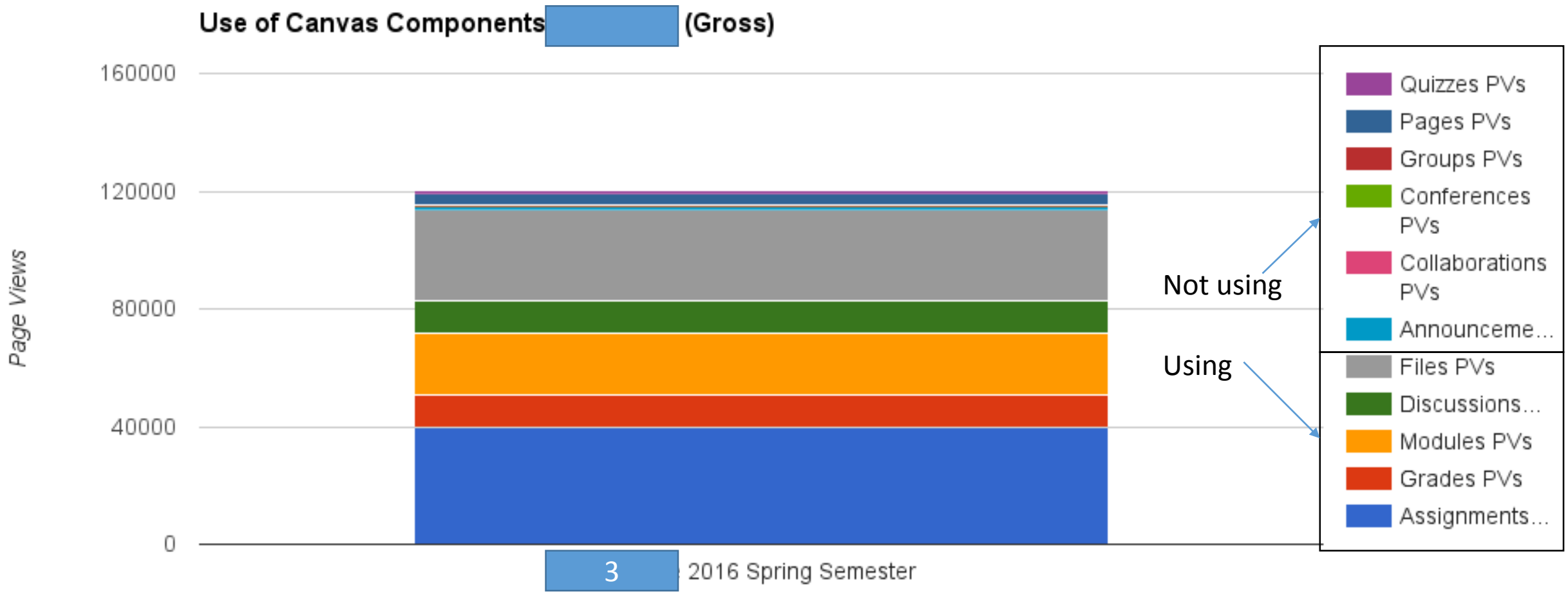
CIEE Canvas Rollout

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

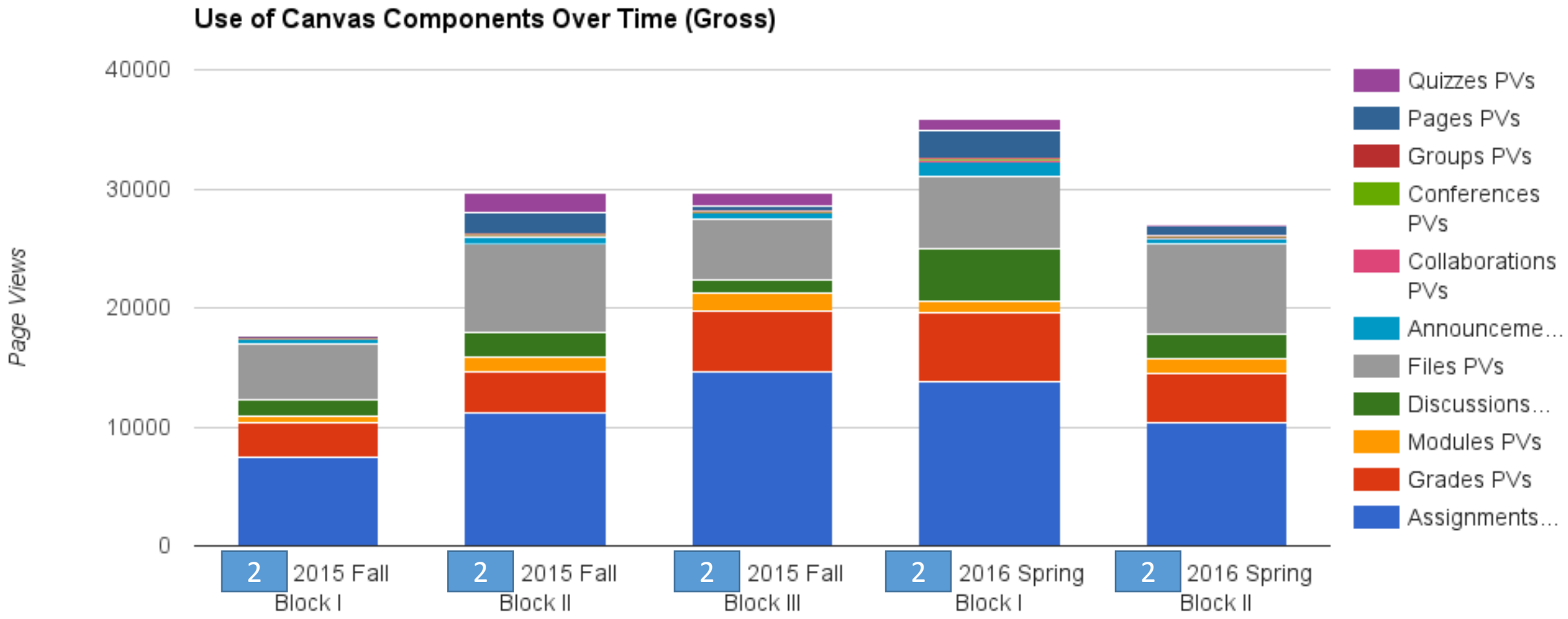
	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH
1					Raw Data															PV/student/semester													
2	Sub Account	Term	Block	Location Term	Courses	Teachers	Students	Assignments	Assignments PVs	Grades PVs	Modules PVs	Discussions PVs	Files PVs	Announcements PVs	Collaborations PVs	Conferences PVs	Groups PVs	Pages PVs	Quizzes PVs	Average # students/course	Block Multiplier	Total Assignments comp	Assignments PV	Grades PV	Modules PV	Discussions PV	Files PV	Announcements PV	Collaborations PV	Conferences PV	Groups PV	Pages PV	Quizzes PV
3	1				5	4	14	43	3019	1247	1256	730	2127	120	45	28	6	5	3	15	3	9	647	267	269	156	456	26	10	6	1	1	1

These are some of the questions the data tracking tool can help us answer

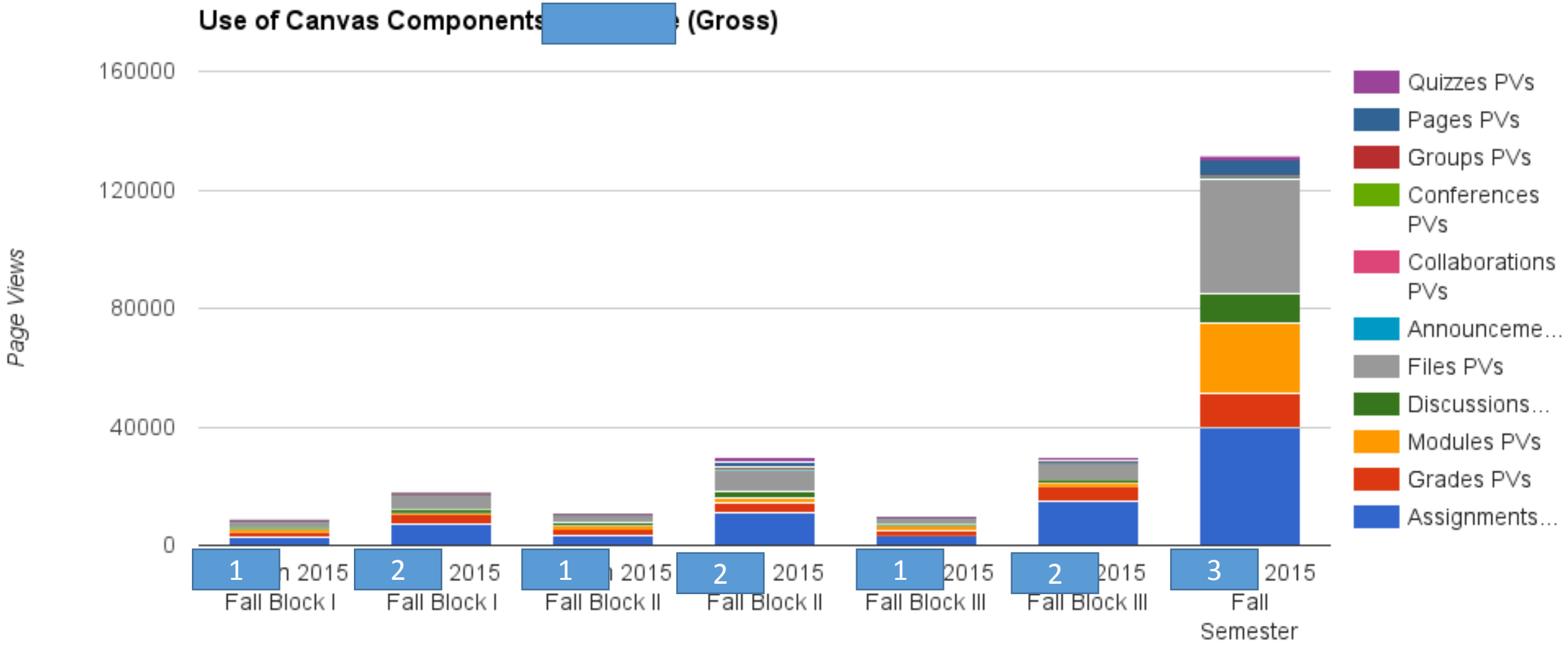
What Canvas components are being used?



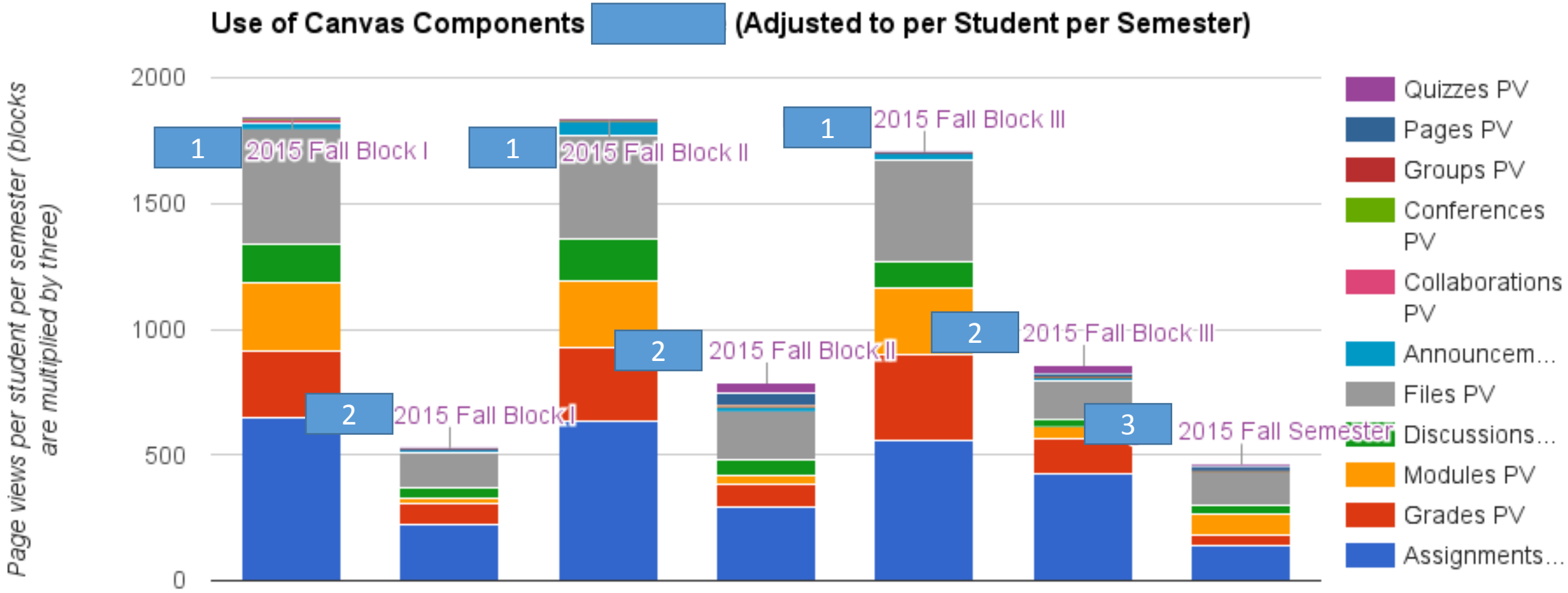
How is a site's use of Canvas changing over time?



How do the sites compare in terms of overall use of Canvas?



How do sites compare in terms of adjusted usage?



Next steps in terms of measuring success

- Short term
  - Get feedback and refine – Does the approach I laid out get answers to the right questions? Would sites want me to send them the types of charts that this tool can produce? What would they do with them? What might be missing?
  - I need to overhaul our qualitative data collection process. New surveys for admins and instructors that will go out each semester
- Long term
  - Adopt “Canvas Data.” Canvas Data is a program where Instructure gives you access to all of your Canvas data, not just what is in the analytics dashboards. This is great because it will allow us to answer more sophisticated questions and get more actionable insights about our use of Canvas. The downside is that the raw data is a messy/huge data set. We’ll need to work with a data scientist to leverage it.

Eager to hear your thoughts.
-Ryan