

1035-M1-1477 **J. Alfredo Jimenez*** (jaj4@psu.edu), Penn State Hazleton, 76 University Drive, Hazleton, PA 18707. *Developing Reading Comprehension in an Introductory Linear Algebra Course*. Preliminary report.

In teaching a 2-credit introductory linear algebra class, there needs to be a very careful balance between conceptual understanding and computations. To this end, I have produced a way to assign simple problems that help students develop the ability to read definitions and be able to use them. These problems are assigned as reading comprehension problems to be solved outside of class, with an option for hints and questions in class. This technique has several positive consequences: (1) Students come to class better prepared and with many questions. (2) Students are exposed to future topics at an elementary level and thus become familiar with concepts, notation, and terminology. (3) Students are required to do some drill problems, but in context, to gain a better understanding of a particular concept. (4) Students see how the material is integrated as a whole from the beginning to the end of the course. (Received September 19, 2007)