The main purpose of a pre-class assignment is to prepare students for learning in the next class. Similar to Just-In-Time-Teaching, students are first introduced to the material by reading the textbook, so that lecture becomes their second exposure. By assigning guided readings (example below) coupled with targeted quiz questions, students begin to recognize the textbook as being helpful to their learning.

In-class worksheets (example right) is to engage the students with the new material. This forces the students to recognize which parts of the lecture they have understood and where they are still struggling.

When given time to work on the worksheets in class, I usually ...
- work through worth NO marks
- went through with the same or next day
- tried to complete it at home before the exam
- tried to complete it at home that week
- did NOT try to complete it at home

What MOTIVATED you to do the pre-readings?
- 10% helps understand material/know what to expect in lecture/find routine helpful
- 56%: only for the 2% marks
- 3% did not find the pre-reading helpful

STUDENT COMMENTS
- “I think it is very valuable to have the pre-readings to understand the lecture material and the pre-reading quizzes because if there are questions on the quiz that look unfamiliar or I'm not completely comfortable with, it motivates me to go back to the text.”
- “It’s for marks and it gives me a heads up on what we will be learning in class. It helps me to distinguish what I know and what I have troubles with so I can be all ears in the parts where I am struggling with in class.”

The pre-readings were more useful than I thought. It was evident during the week where there was no pre-reading and I wasn’t sure what the lecture was going to cover. I had much more difficulty understanding the concepts that week.

Right)
- The improved exam performance is due to the new teaching methods implemented in class.
- Percent of students staying on track improved from 2009 to 2010.

CONCLUSIONS
- Technology allows for individual feedback in large lectures
- Students recognize the benefits of active learning components
- Positive student feedback may increase motivation
- Fewer students failing exams