

## Five-minute Summaries

(10% of final grade). At the end of each class meeting, each student has *five minutes* to write a summary of the class that addresses the following question:

“What is the most important point about public health you learned in today's class?”

There are 28 classes with five-minute summaries, each with a maximum score of 20. The final score for this component is the average of the 25 highest scores for the student; the lowest three scores are discarded. If a student does not hand in a five-minute summary after a class, he or she receives a 0 for the class's five-minute summary.

The intent behind the 5-minute summary is two-fold. First, knowing a 5-minute summary that contributes to a student's grade is coming up at the end of the class encourages involvement. Second, practice improves what one practices, and the behavior I want them to practice is writing clearly about a point learned in class that is relevant and significant. If a student learns to be clear, relevant, and significant in short writing exercises, there is a good chance this will generalize to other aspects of their learning. These three standards are essential for a student to meaningfully process information he or she is expected to learn.