

Characteristics of Product Backlogs

The following are characteristics of more impactful Product Backlogs. For each statement, indicate how strongly you agree with that statement.

#	Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable
1	The Product Backlog consistently has approximately 2 sprints worth of items that meets the Scrum Team's Definition of Ready.						
2	ALL of the work is encapsulated within one Product Backlog for the Scrum Team; there are not multiple Product Backlogs for one Scrum Team.						
3	The items in our Product Backlog are strongly aligned with our Product Vision and Product Goal.						
4	Our Scrum Team members feel that we spend the right amount of time refining items in the Product Backlog.						
5	Items in the Product Backlog reflect outcomes versus "just implement this requirement/design/specification" or "tasks".						
6	Items in the Product Backlog generally reflect the need for cross-functional skills (i.e. the items are not written for just one specific person or one specific task).						
7	Items in the Product Backlog are refined collaboratively with more than one voice (i.e. it does not come from just one person).						
8	Items in the Product Backlog are generally the "right size": Not too big (i.e. fits in one sprint or less), and not too small (too many short stories).						
9	The Product Backlog is dynamic; it is adjusted (within reason) as more is learned about the Product (e.g. how that Product will be consumed/used, if there are any relevant shifts in the industry/environment for that Product, etc.).						
10	The Product Owner is empowered to set the order (priority) of the Product Backlog.						
11	There is a clearly defined and transparent rubric (set of criteria) used to determine the order of the items in the Product Backlog; we follow the criteria to set the order (it's not overridden).						
12	Our Stakeholders/Customers understand what is in the Product Backlog and understand the rationale/ reasoning in why it is set in a certain order/priority.						

While the above is not an all-inclusive list, organizations that create, maintain, and use Product Backlogs more effectively tend to have the characteristics above. Review your answers. See if there are any patterns to your responses. Are there any opportunities for improvement you see? What actions might be needed to increase the impact of your Product Backlogs?