## Agile Retrospectives

# The Engine of Continuous Improvement



A meeting at the end of each Agile iteration where the <u>team reflects</u> and <u>identifies ways to improve</u>

Purpose: To inspect, adapt, and grow &





## Retrospectives Deliver Real Business Value

## Accelerate Delivery

Small process improvements compound over time

### **Reduce Waste**

 Identify inefficiencies and blockers early

## **Boost Quality**

 Team learns from bugs, failures, and feedback

## **Enhance Engagement**

 People feel heard and empowered



## **Drive Innovation**

 Safe space for ideas and experiments

Retrospectives are not just meetings - they are strategy sessions for operational excellence





## From Routine to High-Impact: Ingredients of a Powerful Retrospective



Safe, open space for feedback



Focused agenda (what went well, what didn't, what to try next)



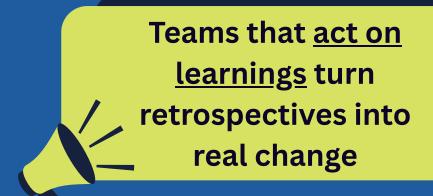
Clear takeaways & action items



Ownership and accountability



Regular follow-up on improvements





# Make It Count: Turning Feedback into Forward Motion

Make retrospectives engaging, reflective, and actionable

- Keep fresh & fun
- Encourage psychological safety
- Spark creativity and deeper reflection

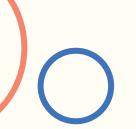
Log action items as backlog items with owners & due dates

Review past action items at start of retrospective



<u>Track outcomes of action items</u> (e.g., decreased defects, faster story completion, higher team morale)

Celebrate wins & share



Make improvements visible. Tie actions to value. Share results.









## **Retrospective Games**

#### **REFLECTION & DISCOVERY**

## Games that help teams uncover what happened in the sprint

#### Start / Stop / Continue

➤ What should we start doing? Stop doing? Continue doing?

#### Mad / Sad / Glad

➤ Capture emotions to explore team morale and experience

#### 4Ls (Liked, Learned, Lacked, Longed For)

➤ More nuanced reflection on knowledge, expectations, and experiences

#### **ACTION & PRIORITIZATION**

#### Games that lead to concrete improvements

#### **Dot Voting**

➤ Vote on the most important issue to address

#### Lean Coffee

➤ Team suggests discussion topics, votes on them, then timeboxes the discussion

#### 5 Whys

➤ Use when exploring the root cause of a recurring issue

#### **Action Brainstorm**

➤ For every issue identified, brainstorm multiple solutions - then prioritize

#### **CREATIVITY & PERSPECTIVE**

## Games that shift thinking and unlock new insights

#### **The Timeline**

➤ Draw a timeline of the sprint and plot key moments or emotions

#### The Weather Report

➤ How was the sprint - Sunny? Cloudy? Stormy? Explain why

#### **Storytelling Circles**

➤ Each person tells a short story from the sprint, good or bad - Builds empathy and insight

#### **CELEBRATION & TEAM BONDING**

## Games that strengthen relationships and recognize wins

#### **Kudos Wall**

➤ Each person gives a shoutout or thank-you to a teammate

#### **Sprint Awards**

➤ Fun, informal awards: "Bug Whisperer," "Calm Under Pressure," etc.

#### High Five / Fist Bump Chain

➤ A rapid round of appreciation