



# 10 Ways to Improve Your Boring Retrospective



When your scrum team tells you that Sprint Retrospective:

**"It's boring", "We Don't Need Retrospective", "Can we skip it", "Do we have to conduct retrospective, we have nothing to add", "Can we do retrospective every other sprint?"**

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## Purpose

- As a ScrumMaster (SM), reiterate the purpose of sprint retrospective every sprint – it's about continuous improvements, Kaizen, inspect and adapt. Please refrain from calling it post-mortem.

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## Beyond Improvements

- I observe that teams spend too much energy and focus on what went wrong. Sometime it feels like it is **"Bitch Session"**.
- Use retrospective to celebrate success, offer well deserved shout-outs, appreciations, kudos, pat on your back.

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## "Skip it", "Do we have To?", Seriously?

- When team tells me to skip retrospective, I request my team to look in to each other eyes and say out loud that **"We are perfect and have nothing else to improve" OR "We all terribly suck and have nothing good to share with each other"**

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## Add variety

- Human beings get bored with the same retrospective technique over and over. Request your team to select which technique / tool they want to use.
- Also, change/rotate your retro technique every 2-3 sprints or months or whatever your preferred cycle.

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## Try Decentralized Facilitation

- It's okay to ask one of the dev team member to facilitate retro based on the technique and tool of their choice. Remember as a SM you are still responsible for inspect and adapt and process improvement.

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## Sequence Matters

- As per retrospective simulation in my agile training, start with good things that happen during the sprint, shout-outs, crazy things that happened that team wants to stop **(e.g. Kiran your ScrumMaster, ran a daily scrum everyday for almost an hour, we need to stop or replace Kiran)**, and items you want to improve.

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## Let the Team Prioritize improvements

- Don't forget to prioritize improvement list using dot voting technique or any other technique of your preference. Pick top 2 or 3 items and try **NOT** to "Boil the Ocean".

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## Action Plan

- Ensure to agree on action plan with 1) Action, 2) Primary action owner (It's not always a Scrum Master), 3) Estimate, 4) Who will track? 5) Where will you track?

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## Celebrate Again

- Ensure to bring completed action items in the next sprint retrospective and celebrate again on the improvements you made and the impact of improvements.

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## Rise to Next Level (Scrum@Scale)

- Join Scrum of Scrum Level Retrospective and learn, share from each other.

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