

Mighty Jaxx Agile Decision Making

Writing Prompt 1

The production process at Mighty Jaxx could benefit the most from implementing Scrum methodologies. Scrum is a framework that enables cross-functional teams to work closely together toward a common goal. From a human resource management perspective, this methodology clearly defines roles and responsibilities within the team. During the production process, multiple stakeholders are involved, including toy designers, developers, and manufacturers. Implementing Scrum can help to structure the workflow within the team and ensure that everyone is aligned and working toward the same objectives. Scrum also includes demos of new features to stakeholders, which enables smoother communication and feedback loops. In terms of time control, Scrum can help deliver projects in shorter timelines, which aligns with Mighty Jaxx's goal of quicker fulfillment periods. Scrum is also more friendly to the team in the product development process, as the Scrum backlog allows the product team to prioritize tasks, and the sprint releases provide timely feedback to the product manager.

Kanban may not be the best fit for the production process. While Kanban is an excellent tool for task visualization, it does not define roles within the team, which may lead to communication problems during execution. Kanban is effective at promoting collaboration between teams, but in the production process, Scrum may be a better fit for structuring and managing the workflow. The table below highlights the key attributes of the production process and the differences between Kanban and Scrum.

Facet	Kanban	Scrum	Production process
Roles	No predefined roles	Development team, Scrum master, product	Cross-functional teams, tighter time limit
Artifacts	Kanban board(Build, test, done)	Product backlog, sprint backlog, scrum board(todo, build, test, done)	The product development process needs to prioritize future todo
Development cycle	Continuous	At the end of the Sprint, completed items are packaged for release to live. Any incomplete items are returned to the Product Backlog.	Production needs constant release and feedback.
Working process	Daily standup —> demo —> retrospective	Sprint planning —> Daily scrum —> Sprint review —> Sprint retrospective	Different stakeholders need transparency

Table 1. A side-by-side look at kanban and scrum

Overall, implementing Scrum methodologies in the production process can help to optimize workflow, improve communication and collaboration, and deliver projects in shorter timelines.

Writing Prompt 2

The distribution function at Mighty Jaxx would benefit the most from implementing Kanban methodologies. The distribution process is all about delivering products to retailers predictably and with timely delivery. By implementing the Kanban framework, we can optimize the entire distribution process and complete tasks in a timely manner.

The Kanban workflow for distribution could be broken down into the following columns:

- Product backlog: This column will include products that are in the warehouse and need to be shipped.
- Build: Products waiting to be arranged for shipping will be placed in this column.
- Test: Products in the shipping process should be presented in this column.
- Done: This column will represent the finished shipping process.

Kanban involves setting WIP (work in process) limits to ensure that tasks are completed in the shortest possible time. In terms of execution, products will be "pulled" directly from the product backlog, which eliminates unnecessary communication processes and makes the distribution process more efficient.

In contrast, Scrum is focused on facilitating communication between different teams and may not be the best fit for the linear and straightforward distribution process. The distribution process does not have many stakeholders involved and is a simple process, so implementing Scrum may make the process less efficient due to backlog prioritization and additional sprints.

Writing Prompt 3

During the decision-making process, there's one problematic trap that we should be aware of, which is confirmation bias. Confirmation bias is a well-known pitfall in decision-making. It refers to the tendency to search for and interpret information in a way that confirms pre-existing beliefs or hypotheses, while ignoring or downplaying evidence that contradicts them. During our hard pivot in the project management process, we may try to interpret the information we get as supporting evidence of our previous hypothesis. When conducting bottom-up research on our employees, we may focus on finding evidence that supports our hypothesis instead of thoroughly analyzing the feedback they have provided.

To avoid it, we need to be mindful of our own biases and make a conscious effort to seek out evidence that challenges our assumptions. When we try to draw conclusions from current information, we can ask ourselves the current belief we hold and try to find out the evidence to prove we are wrong rather than we are being right.