

Assignment 03: Review Questions

1. What is “I” language? Provide an example that does not use “I” language and one that does use “I” language.

“I” language is a communication approach used to address situations in a non-confrontational manner. This approach emphasizes expressing one’s feelings and desires without antagonizing or blaming the other party. This is important because using accusational language, more often than not, makes the other party feel attacked and thus can trigger negative emotions which, in turn, can escalate the initial issue being addressed. For example, instead of saying “Why aren’t you commenting on your code?”, one could say “I would appreciate it if you would start commenting on your code”. The former doesn’t use “I” language and comes off as very aggressive; the latter does use “I” language and expresses one’s desires without conveying hostility towards the other party.

2. What does it mean when we say, “Agile teams should manage their own membership”? Why does allowing agile teams to manage their own membership benefit the team?

When we say, “Agile teams should manage their own membership”, it means that agile teams should decide who is and who is not on the team, as opposed to a manager deciding. This is beneficial to the team because teams who are allowed to manage their own membership are generally more collaborative. For example, a team may want certain people on their team because they prefer their communication style or they appreciate what they bring to the table. Allowing the team select teammates who have the skills and or personalities that they desire helps the team out tremendously with communication and productivity as the team is more respectful, understanding, and appreciative of each other.

3. Why is safety important for agile teams and how can you create a safe environment for your team?

Safety is important for agile teams because it encourages team members to respect each others’ actions. Safety also inspires team members to express their thoughts and challenge each others’ ideas. This promotes creativity within the team and helps the team generate new and alternative solutions to their problems. One of the best ways to create a safe environment for your team is to allow your team to take risks, make mistakes, and express their opinions and interpretations without having to worry about being wrong or being punished. If team members are constantly fearing repercussions for their actions, they will be less inclined to speak their mind and explore different solutions which will severely hinder growth within the team.