**What communication practices (such as information radiator, Scrum events, and so on) can create openness and transparency in a Scrum Team? Why?**

Good communication practices are a crucial tool in Agile teams for promoting openness and transparency, which are vital to successful product development. Scrum includes several communication practices, such as information radiators and structured events. These practices foster clarity, trust, and collaboration. Information radiators, like Scrum boards and burn-down charts, create transparency by continually showing progress, tasks, and issues (Highsmith & Cockburn, 2020). Scrum events, such as daily stand-ups, sprint reviews, and retrospectives, further support open communication by providing regular chances for team members to discuss progress, challenges, and improvements.

**Consider an example from the SNHU Travel assignments or from the group discussions in this course that helped your team complete their work. What communication practices were particularly effective?**

In our SNHU Travel assignments, continued change based on customer input was also hugely beneficial. Daily stand-ups were essential for determining when it was time for us to change our project direction. For instance, whenever customers were very interested in Detox and Wellness travel destinations on the site, we quickly changed our priorities and features to accommodate these demands. Stand-ups allowed us to communicate customer insights instantly and quickly act on them and realign tasks. This continuous change based on customers' feedback highlighted how Agile reacts to change and made our product more relevant and satisfying for customers.

**Describe how an Agile project-management tool (such as JIRA, Azure Boards, or RTC) can help coordinate and increase efficiency within the team. Be certain to consider a tool and not a Scrum event.**

Agile project management tools and software benefit teams by providing enhanced coordination and efficacy. For example, JIRA facilitates Agile methodologies via comprehensive monitoring of user stories, sprints, and tasks. JIRA boards' visual simplicity enables team members to keep abreast of task progression and detect bottlenecks or slowdowns immediately, allowing for timely intervention (Reddy, 2021). JIRA also provides robust reporting and analytics to help teams optimize time estimations and resource utilization from iteration to iteration. As Reddy (2021) notes, "JIRA's structured task management capability directly contributes to smoother sprint executions and more predictable project outcomes" (p. 89). Therefore, integrating these tools into Agile practices ensures clear communication, better visibility, and improved team efficiency.

**References**

Highsmith, J., & Cockburn, A. (2020). Agile software development: The cooperative game (2nd ed.). Addison-Wesley Professional.

Reddy, A. (2021). Agile project management with JIRA: An essential guide (2nd ed.). Packt Publishing.