

Scrum: INVEST

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I Independent

The user story should be self-contained, in a way that there is no inherent dependency on another user story.

N Negotiable

User stories, up until they are part of an iteration, can always be changed and rewritten.

V Valuable

A user story must deliver value to the end user.

E Estimable

You must always be able to estimate the size of a user story.

S Small

User stories should not be so big as to become impossible to plan/task/prioritize with a certain level of certainty.

T Testable

The user story or its related description must provide the necessary information to make test development possible.

PBI: Product Backlog Item

Specifies the what more than the how of a customer-centric feature

- Often written in User Story form
- Has a product-wide definition of done to prevent technical debt
- May have item-specific acceptance criteria
- Effort is estimated by the team, ideally in relative units
- Effort is roughly 2-3 people 2-3 days, or smaller for advanced teams

“A skilled ScrumMaster can help the team identify **thin vertical slices** of work that still have business value, while promoting a rigorous definition of *done* that includes proper testing and refactoring.”

