Mapping the Trail Together

Reaching a Shared Understanding of Where We’re Going and How to Get There

Warning

Nothing I tell you today is going to be entirely new information.

Innovation Through Simplicity!

Thesis: It’s important have a shared understanding of what we’re trying to do, and how we’re going to get there. While this does take time and thought, it is not complicated. We already have all the tools we need to get to a place of shared understanding.

Three Big Ideas:

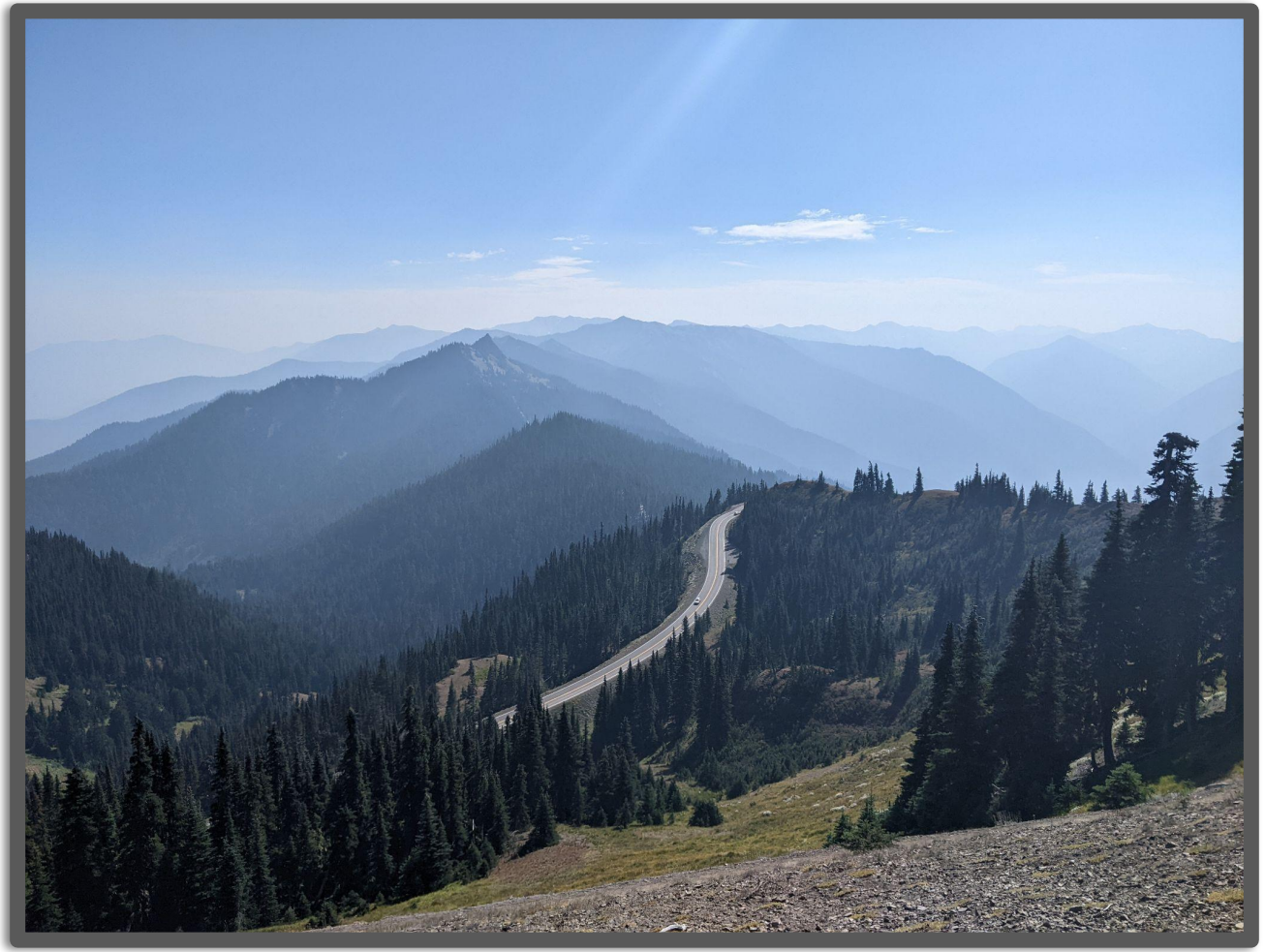
- ❏ Stories are the starting point for a conversation
- ❏ The goal of user stories is shared understanding
- ❏ Externalize your understanding - it’s the agile way

If you remember just one thing from today…

Stories are the starting point for conversations.

“I need to learn how to write better user stories”

With user stories, what matters is how we use them, not how we write them.



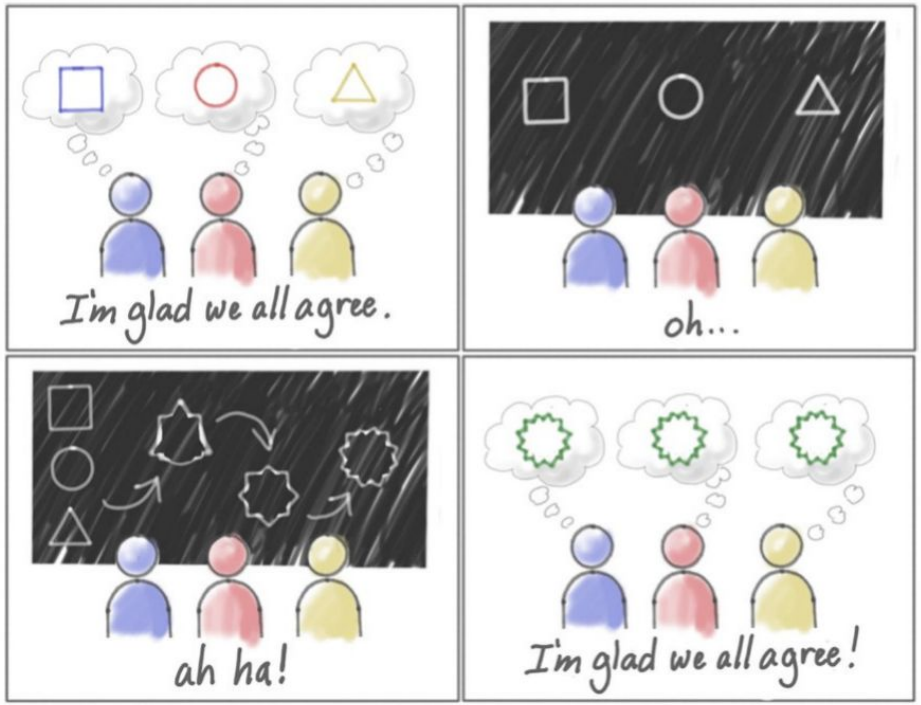
The goal of user stories is shared understanding

“Meets requirements”

```
( (User Stories != Requirements Documents
&&
Requirements Documents != User Stories)
&&
(Requirements Documents != Shared
Understanding) )
```

This statement evaluates to true.

Externalized Understanding: Sounds Fancy? It isn't.



Do it Early and Often

Three Big Ideas:

- ❏ Stories are the starting point for a conversation
- ❏ The goal of user stories is shared understanding
- ❏ Externalize your understanding

User Story Mapping

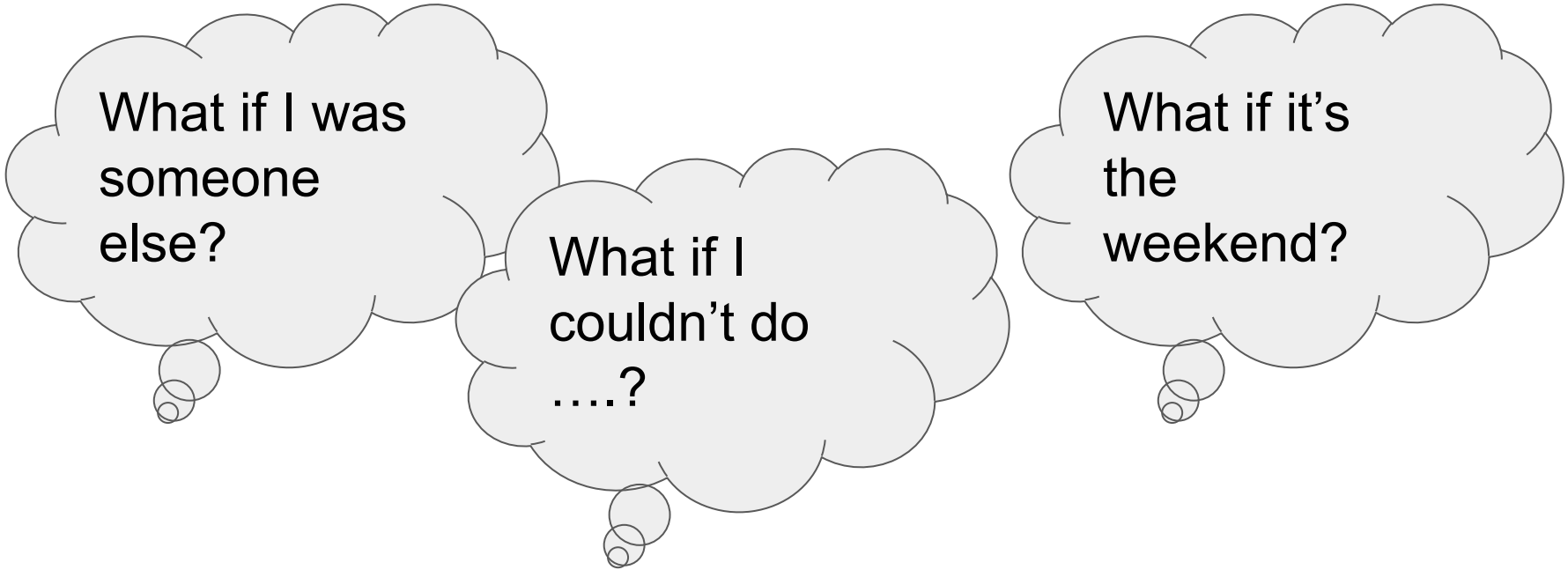
What did you do today?

What do these have in common?

Tasks Can Be Bucketed by Their Altitude

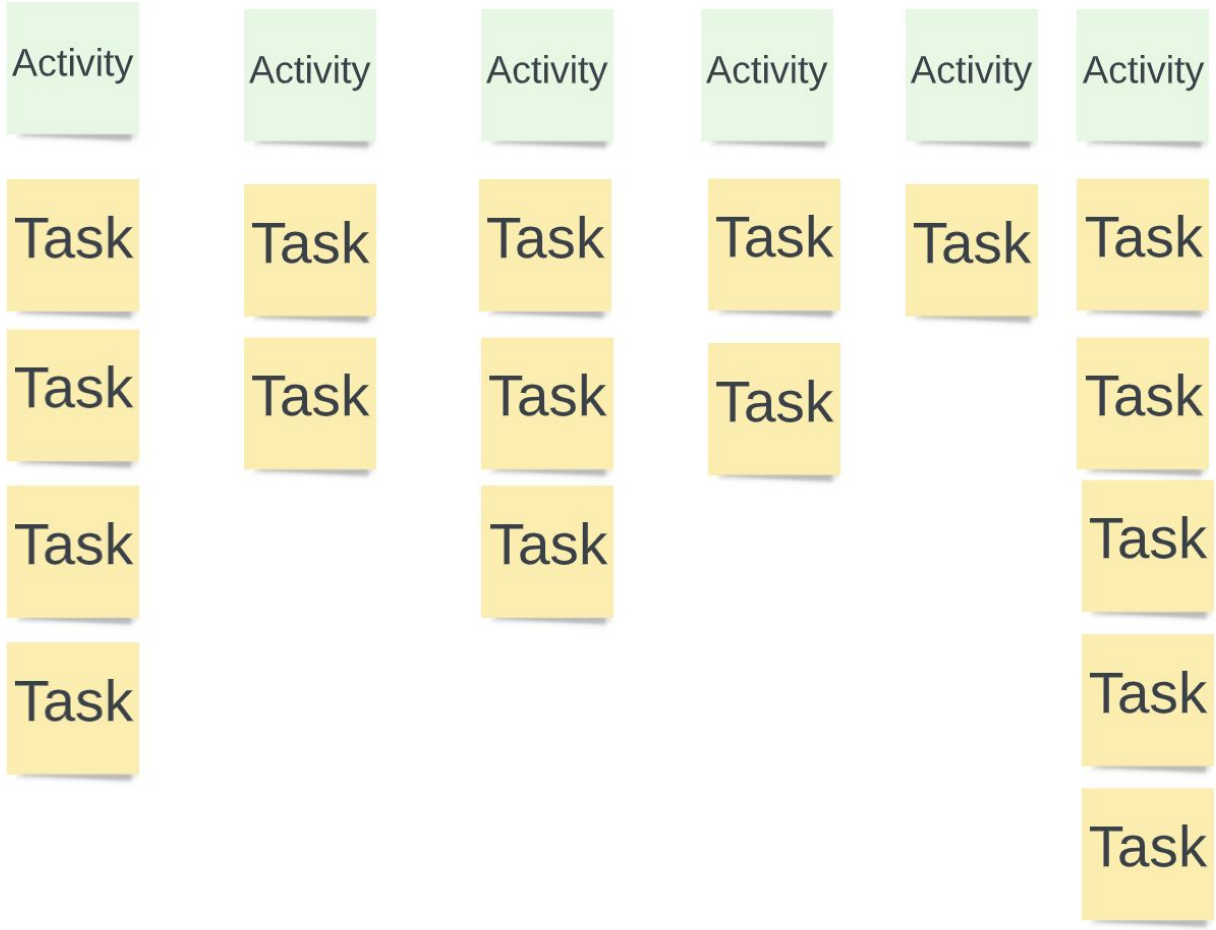
Create the Narrative

Consider The What Ifs…



Maintain the Flow

Grow a Backbone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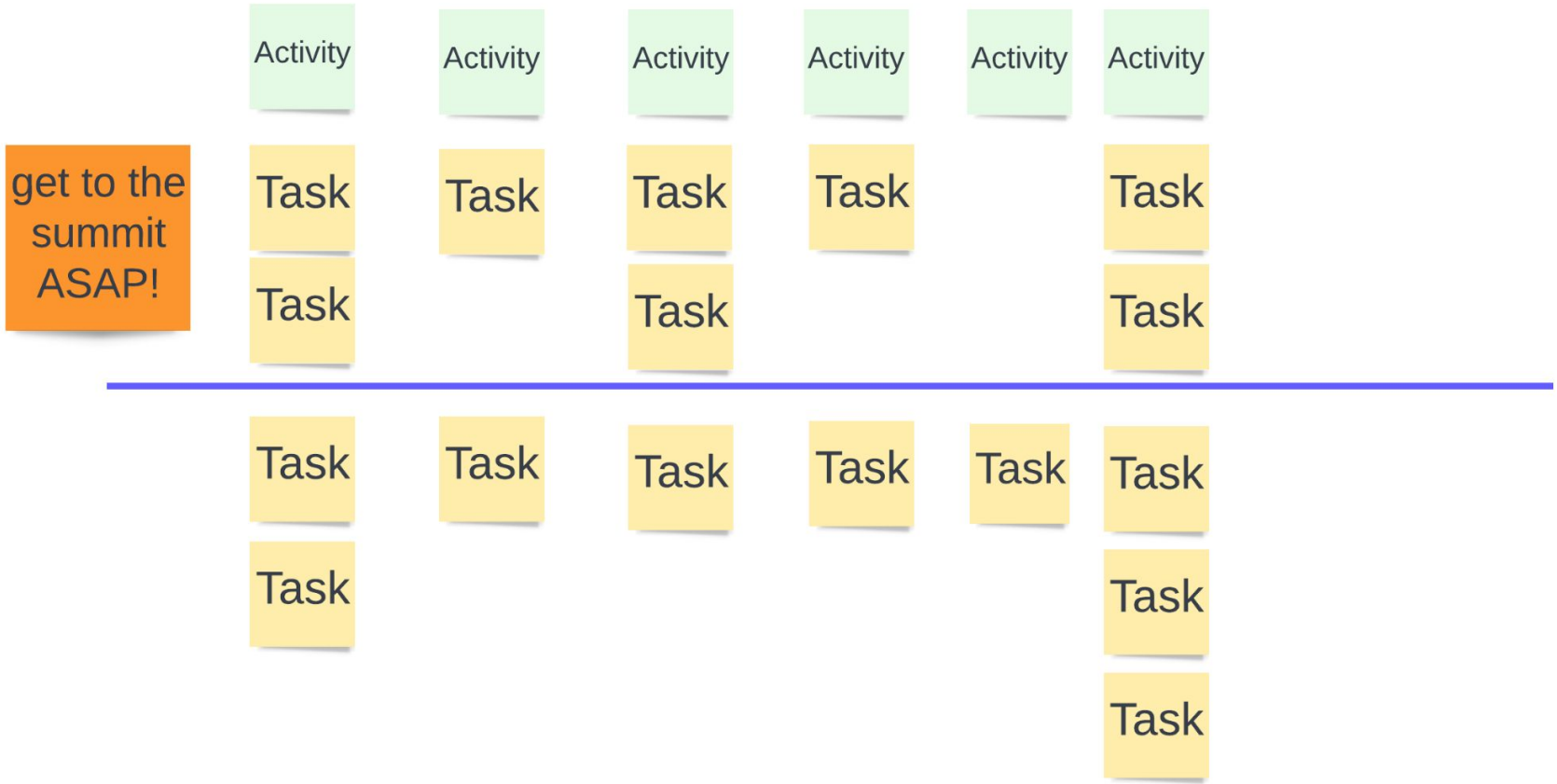
Learn to Slice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get to the summit ASAP!
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actors
activities
tasks
details
MVP1
MVP2

What Just Happened?

- Big Picture Perspective
- Flexibility
- Shared Understanding

THANK YOU