

# “Research in Action” Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

# Dr. Rebecca Pope-Ruark on Agile Methodology [00:00-37:47]

Research in Action - Episode 96

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## Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Dr. Rebecca Pope-Ruark is an associate professor of English at Elon University where she coordinates the professional writing and rhetoric program and leads the Design Thinking Studio in Social Innovation pilot program. She earned her MA in Professional Communication from Clemson University in 2000 and PhD in Rhetoric and Professional Communication from Iowa State University in 2007. Between her MA and PhD, Rebecca spent two years working in marketing communications in Silicon Valley. Her research interests include student collaboration and project-based learning; Agile project management as strategy for managing both faculty and student work; design thinking pedagogies, especially in the liberal arts; and metacognition in professional and technical writing pedagogy. Her work has appeared in disciplinary journals including the *Journal of Business and Technical Communication* and *Technical Communication Quarterly* as well as in *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* journals. She is the author of the faculty development book, *Agile Faculty: Practical Strategies for Managing Research, Service, and Teaching*, available now from the University of Chicago Press. More information about Rebecca can be found on her website <http://www.rebeccapoperuark.com>

*Segment One* [00:00-12:59] - In this segment, Rebecca describes the main elements of the agile project management methodology.

*Segment Two* [13:00-26:51] - In this segment, Rebecca shares about two specific aspects of the agile method.

*Segment Two* [26:52-37:47] - In this segment, Rebecca shares about the concept of a scrum board and describes how she uses one.

*Bonus Clip #1* [00:00-6:14]: Using a Scrum Board in the Classroom

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e96/>

## Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Define agile methodology
- Describe the purpose of a scrum board
- Provide an example of agile methodology as applied to academia
- Discuss the purpose and process of a “sprint”

## Guiding Questions for Listening

- How does Dr. Pope-Ruark define the term agile?
- What does Dr. Pope-Ruark explain led her to pursue a productivity management system?
- What is a scrum board?
- According to Dr. Pope-Ruark, how might a productivity management system be beneficial to those in academia?
- What example does Dr. Pope-Ruark provide for how a productivity management system could be used within a writing group?
- How does Dr. Pope-Ruark explain the purpose and application of the agile method?
- What is the difference between a to-do list and a backlog?
- How does Dr. Pope-Ruark describe a “sprint”?
- What are the three areas of a scrum board?
- What are some of Dr. Pope-Ruark’s recommendations for using a scrum board within a classroom? (See also, Bonus Clip)

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e96/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e96/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Dr. Rebecca Pope-Ruark if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

## Contact

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