Lesson 4

Improving a Factory Subsystem

- Placing IMAGINE at the end of a day and giving additional time during the next session improves the volume and quality of designs and removes the emphasis on choosing the first idea.
- During the PLAN, set up a couple of test stations so teams can try out their design before the actual test.
- Instead of individual team testing, test each subsystem as the rest of the class observes. Chart results. Use class observations to inform the IMPROVE step for each team.
- Remind students that the goal is to better their score, not to compete against other teams. With assigned simple machines, each team has different constraints.
- Classroom videos on the EiE website are interesting for teachers to watch, but particularly helpful for lesson 4. They show a variety of ways students put together their subsystem and how to incorporate other materials (e.g. tape, stack of books) into their design.