**Describe an improvement blitz. How many participants should be included? How long does it last?**

An improvement blitz is a rapid, focused event designed to implement meaningful change within a short time frame, often turning localized insights into scalable solutions. Rooted in lean and continuous improvement methodologies, an improvement blitz allows organizations to harness grassroots-level discoveries and expand their impact across broader systems or operations (Liker, 2004).

Typically lasting between one and five days, an improvement blitz brings together a small, cross-functional team usually 5 to 10 participants, who collaborate intensively to solve a specific problem. The participants might include frontline workers, process owners, engineers, and managers, ensuring a holistic understanding of the issue at hand. The time-bound nature of the blitz promotes urgency and focus, enabling teams to move swiftly from problem identification to solution implementation.

The effectiveness of an improvement blitz lies in its structured approach: teams define the scope, analyze root causes, brainstorm and test solutions, and implement changes, often within the same session. Post-blitz follow-ups are critical to track progress, adjust implementations as needed, and identify opportunities for scaling improvements organization-wide (Womack & Jones, 2003).

By transforming local discoveries such as a frontline worker’s insight or a customer’s complaint into global process enhancements, the improvement blitz serves as a catalyst for innovation and efficiency. It empowers employees, accelerates learning, and reinforces a culture of continuous improvement. As such, it is a powerful tool for organizations striving to remain agile and competitive in rapidly changing environments.

Sources:

1. Liker, J. K. (2004). *The Toyota Way: 14 Management Principles from the World's Greatest Manufacturer*. McGraw-Hill.
2. Womack, J. P., & Jones, D. T. (2003). *Lean Thinking: Banish Waste and Create Wealth in Your Corporation*. Free Press.