

Sample thesis process.

Practice prompt:

In a well written essay, explain how failure can be helpful.

First try:

Failure is helpful so a person can learn how not to fail.

Tests:

Does it answer so what? No, because there is no information on how a person can learn how not to fail and the reader has no reason to care about this idea.

Does it answer why? Yes, this current thesis gives one reason why a person can learn from failure.

Does it answer how? No, there is no information given on how a person can learn how not to fail.

Test results: Not a valid thesis.

Second try:

Failing helped me become a better person by helping me learn from my mistakes, learning to ask for help, and learning to recognize progress as a measure of success.

Tests:

Does it answer so what? No, because there is nothing specific about the writer that makes the reader care about learning.

Does it answer why? Yes, this current thesis gives three reasons why.

Does it answer how? Yes, this current thesis because it gives more information on why also provides how through measuring progress.

Third try:

Failing helped me become a better person by helping me learn from my mistakes, learning to ask for help, and learning to recognize progress as a measure of success so that I will fail less when I take risks.

Test:

Does it answer so what? Yes, this current thesis now gives the readers something to care about in terms of failing – the person's end result of failure is to learn not to fail any more.

Does it answer why? Yes (see second try explanation)

Does it answer how? Yes (see second try explanation)

Now ask your personal questions and the thesis should concepts.