Criteria of a Failure – Internal, learning focused

External factors contributing to the failure (for which the learning is valuable to others doing similar things in a similar circumstance) are considered separately.

Not all failures are created equally.

CAUSES
what you did, and didn’t do.

i.e. opportunity failures are a thing

&

CONSEQUENCES
losses and gains, fluid with time

i.e. recognize the dynamism of failure

Blameworthy*

Moral Lapse
e.g. lie, cheat, steal

Incompetence / Ignorance
e.g. oversleeping; just didn’t know

Uncertainty in future events
e.g. market dynamics change and make your product irrelevant

Task Challenge
e.g. Jamaican Bobsled Team

Experimentation
e.g. unplanned: evolution
planned: prototype

To Self
tangible ($, time, relationships, opportunity) and intangible (respect, energy, self-worth)

To Others
tangible and intangible (same)

Recovery Time
e.g. apologize <-- reframe -- restart --> impossible
short <-----> impossible

Praiseworthy*

*Amy C. Edmondson, Strategies for Learning from Failure, Harvard Business Review April 2011