If you've set server auditing to shutdown on failure, e.g., ALTER SERVER AUDIT auditname WITH (ON_FAILURE=SHUTDOWN) If there is a failure you will may need to reset it from a command line while the server is in single user mode locate sqlservr.exe for the correct instance You probably don't want to put it in the path then sqlservr /c /m"SQLCMD" -- sqlcmd MUST BE IN UPPERCASE In a second command session c:>sqlcmd It will connect to the correct server instance 1> select @@servername 2>go 1>use master 2>go To find the name of a sql server server audit select name from sys.server_audits 1>alter server audit auditname with (state=off) 2>go 1>alter server audit auditname with (on_failure=continue) 2>go 1> alter server audit auditname with (state=on) 2>go Then do a ctrl /c in the other `server process console and answer Y to shutdown the server

Restart SQL Server normally