

Rules for drawing resonance contributors

1. Atoms never move.
Keep the same “framework/connectivity.”
2. Only *pi-electrons* and *lone-pair electrons* move.
Do not move electrons in sigma bonds. (Do not make or break sigma bonds.)
3. The overall charge of the resonance contributors must remain the same.
Consider that + and – charges “cancel out” with each pair of opposite charge within the resonance contributor structure.

Ranking resonance contributors

1. High priority to structures where the octet rule is satisfied.
2. High priority to structures with the lowest net charge.
3. Charges on atoms that contradict electronegativity have less priority.
Higher priority to structures that contain *negative* charges on *electronegative atoms*.
Lower priority to structures that contain *positive* charges on *electronegative atoms*.