

RULES FOR WRITING AND RANKING RESONANCE STRUCTURES

A resonance structure is acceptable if:

- It is a meaningful Lewis structure (Please refer to rules for writing Lewis structures!)
- Electrons are moved but the connectivity pattern of all atoms in the molecule is retained

A resonance structure has a greater importance if:

- It contains a greater number of bonds and atom octets
- It has minimum charge separation
- The negative charge resides on a more electronegative atom
- No like charges are located on adjacent atoms