

Writing Resonance Structures:

- 1) If electrons are associated with (are on) one atom (a radical electron or a lone pair), they must stay associated with (on) that atom in the next resonance form you write. Electrons associated with two atoms (pi bond electrons) can be removed from one of the atoms but must stay with the other atom in the next structure you write.
- 2) Structures with more separation of charge (formal charges) are higher energy and less important contributors to the hybrid that the particle is.
- 3) All resonance structures should have the same number of unpaired electrons.
- 4) Structures without octets on atoms are less important contributors than those structures having all octets.