Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Laurie Starkey, Organic Chemistry, CHM 314 Notes on Resonance Homework

MUST

- Draw <u>complete</u> Lewis Structures (show all lone pairs, formal charges)
- Use curved arrows to show electron "movement" and ←→ arrows between structures
- Rank <u>all</u> resonance forms. If equivalent, say so!
- Explain ranking

Goal: learn to recognize and draw good resonance forms

DON'T

- Have more than 8 electrons on 2nd row elements! (C, N, O)
- Have +2 or -2 charge on an atom (highly unstable; poor contributor)
- Move atoms (only electrons move)

DON'T -Use arrows to move charges (arrows show <u>electron</u> movement; start at bond or lone pair)

DON'T -Omit H's unless it is a line drawing (if you draw "C" you have to draw attached "H" atoms!)

NO
$$\overset{C}{\underset{C-C}{\bigvee}}$$
 $\overset{C}{\underset{C}{\bigvee}}$ YES $\overset{C}{\underset{HC-CH}{\bigvee}}$ or $\overset{H_2C}{\underset{HC-CH}{\bigvee}}$

HINTS

- Don't show formal charge math (wastes time)
- Don't circle the electrons being moved (adds clutter; makes it hard to read)

- When do I stop?! If the structure under consideration is <u>charged</u>, then the most significant resonance is that which <u>delocalizes the charge</u>. Once you've done that, you can probably stop. Otherwise, look for the <u>best</u> resonance contributors (filled octets, minimum number of charges, negative charge on more electronegative atom, etc.).