

'Formal Cause' (pub. 23.07.15-15:04). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-17>.

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**Term:** Formal Cause

**Quote:** If the cause [...] is a part of the *causatum*, in the sense that the *causatum* could not logically be without the cause, it is called an *internal cause*; otherwise, it is called an *external cause*. If the cause is of the nature of an individual thing or fact, and the other factor requisite to the necessitation of the *causatum* is a general principle, I would call the cause a *minor*, or *individuating*, or perhaps a *physical cause*. If, on the other hand, it is the general principle which is regarded as the cause and the individual fact to which it is applied is taken as the understood factor, I would call the cause *major*, or *defining*, or perhaps a *psychical cause*. [—] The defining internal cause is called the *formal cause*, or *form*.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904 [c.]). *New Elements (Kaina stoiceia)*. MS [R] 517.

**References:** EP 2:315-6; NEM 4:252-3

**Date of** 1904 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-new-elements-kaina-stoiceia-17>