Inductive Approach to Grammar
Students are given examples and work on exercises culminating in the opportunity to formulate the rules themselves. This approach is based on the assumptions that (1) students will internalize a rule more efficiently if they have intuited (or formed) the rule themselves and that (2) students who have established their own understanding of a rule are more likely to apply it to what they write.

Solving Verb Problems Inductively
Look at these sentences:
1. They found her wallet
2. Sam baked some cookies.
3. Donna speaks three languages.

What do all the underlined words have in common?
   a. They are types of events
   b. They show action
   c. They are things people do, feel, see, hear, touch, taste, smell, or experience.

These are:  a) nouns  b) adjectives  c) verbs

Inductive Approach to Teaching Academic Writing: Verbs as Markers of Formality
Student Group A
1. Using a ride-hailing app ensures that riders are entering the right vehicle.
2. Using a ride-hailing app makes sure that riders are getting into the right vehicle.

Student Group B
1. If ride-hailing apps went into effect fully across the world, we could keep down the death toll from drunk driving accidents.
2. If ride-hailing apps were fully implemented across the world, we could reduce the death toll from drunk driving accidents.

Student Group C
1. DUIs went down as much as 9.2%.....
2. DUIs decreased as much as 9.2%.....

Reminder: circled items are LESS formal. Can you develop a rule based on observations?

Possible answer: Multi-word verbs (phrasal verbs) can often seem more informal than one-word verbs.

Think-Pair-Share interactions
Individual: Identify the less formal sentence
Pair: Check results and compare the sentences examining the verbs
Whole Class: Discuss findings and implications

Rules about academic formality aren’t true 100% of the time. The point is to help students become more conscious of their word choices and their effects on the reader. Pro Tip: Include “Verb Formality” in a student self-editing checklist and/or rubric for essays, lab reports, case studies, etc.