

# Career Development Facilitator Unit 3, Lesson 3: Holding Helping Conversations

For VA Employees

Course Transcript



# Career Development Facilitator (CDF), Unit 3, Lesson 3: Holding Helping Conversations

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## Screen 1 - Title Screen



Screen Description	Narration
Centered in the Screen is the following text:	No Narration
"Unit 3 Lesson 3 – Holding Helpful	
Conversations	
This course contains audio. Please turn on your speakers or enable the Closed Captioning (CC) at the bottom of the page. Click Next at the bottom of the page to begin.	
If you've never taken a MyCareer@VA web- based training course, click here to view a brief tutorial before you get started."	



# Screen 2 – Welcome



Screen Description	Narration
Centered on the screen is the course mentor smiling.	Welcome to the lesson on Holding Helping Conversations.
	The foundation of your work as a CDF will be holding meaningful and productive conversations with VA employees to help them accomplish their career goals.
	This lesson will focus on Active Listening and Effective Responding, two of the most important skills needed to hold a helping conversation.
	Please select the "Next" button to continue.



#### Screen 3 – Lesson Overview & Learning Objectives



Screen Description	Narration
On the left side, the screen displays	Please take a moment to read the Lesson Overview and
"Lesson Overview" and on the right	Learning Objectives.
side, the screen displays "Learning	
Objectives" and five bullets.	If you have questions about the content in this lesson, please consult the accompanying resources that are available under
Lesson Overview:	the "Resources" button or on the final screen.
"This lesson will build your skills in	When you are finished reading, please select the "Next"
Active Listening and Effective	button to continue.
Responding so you can hold productive	
and healthy helping conversations with	
VA employees."	
Learning Objectives:	
"After completing this lesson, you	



Screen Description	Narration
should be able to	
<ul> <li>Identify the elements of a productive helping conversation.</li> <li>Define Active Listening.</li> <li>Apply Active Listening strategies.</li> <li>Identify Effective Responding strategies.</li> <li>Apply Effective Responding strategies."</li> </ul>	



# <u>Screen 4 – Defining Helping Conversations</u>



Screen Description	Narration
On the right side, the screen displays	Your role as a CDF is to help employees identify ways to
the course mentor meeting an employee at her desk.	accomplish their career goals, not do the work for them.
	Therefore, a large part of your work will be performed by holding helping conversations with the individuals who come to you for guidance.
The following text is added to the left side of the screen:	So what is a helping conversation?
	Essentially, a helping conversation is any discussion that seeks to
"A helping conversation is a	resolve a problem or issue.
discussion between two or more	
people in which a particular problem	
or set of problems is addressed."	
The following text is added to the left	To facilitate effective helping conversations, CDFs must engage



Screen Description	Narration
side of the screen:	in Active Listening and Effective Responding.
"As a CDF, you should:	You likely already apply these skills in your daily work at VA, but this lesson will help you further build these abilities in the
<ul><li>Listen Actively</li><li>Respond Effectively"</li></ul>	context of career development.
	Please select the "Next" button to continue.



## <u>Screen 5 – Introduction</u>



Screen Description	Narration
On the right side, the screen displays	Active Listening is an essential component of effective
the course mentor meeting an	communication.
employee at her desk.	



Screen Description	Narration
The following text is added to the left	Research indicates that most of us remember only about half
side of the screen:	of what we hear, sometimes less.
"People remember only 25%-50% of	Think about a recent conversation you had—how much time
what they hear.	did you spend listening rather than talking?
What do YOU remember when listening to others?	What new information did you learn?
	As a CDF, be prepared to tailor career advice based upon what
What do people remember when listening to YOU?"	you know about each employee's unique situation.
	Please select the "Next" button to continue.



#### Screen 6 - Defining Active Listening



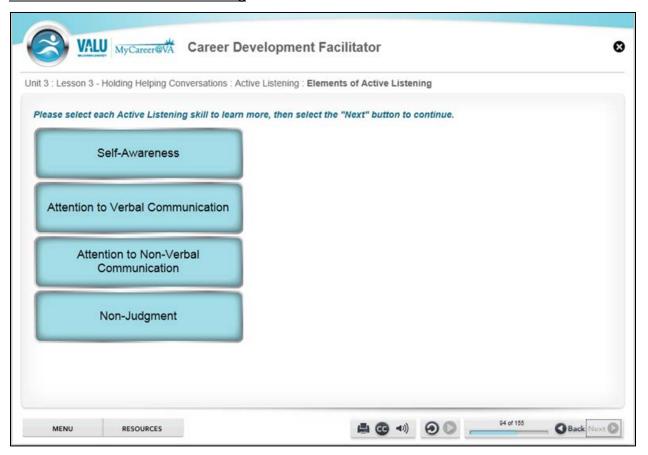
Screen Description	Narration
On the right side, the screen displays	In today's increasingly connected world, we communicate with
the course mentor meeting an employee at her desk.	others more than ever.
. ,	However, effective listening is much more complex than it may seem.
	Section .
	It requires that you verbally engage with others while also sensing, interpreting, and responding to their non-verbal cues.
The following text is added to the left side of the screen:	As a CDF, Active Listening helps you gain the fullest possible understanding of an employee's career experiences and goals.
"Active Listening is a technique that	
involves not only listening to the words someone uses but also taking	



Screen Description	Narration
into account their tone of voice, their body language, and other non- verbal signs in order to gain a fuller	
understanding of what they are actually communicating."	
The following text is added to the left	For employees who seek your guidance, Active Listening builds
side of the screen:	trust and creates an environment in which they feel heard, supported, and at ease.
"Active Listening:	
	All of these factors help build productive working relationships
<ul> <li>Thorough understanding for the CDF"</li> </ul>	with employees.
<ul> <li>A feeling of trust, support, and ease for the employee</li> </ul>	Please select the "Next" button to learn about the core elements of Active Listening.



## Screen 7 - Elements of Active Listening



Screen Description	Narration
On the left side the screen displays the following text:	Active Listening is much more than just hearing what someone has to say.
"Please select each Active Listening skill to learn more, then select the 'Next' button to continue.	It includes a few critical elements that should be used to develop your listening skills, allowing you to be a more impactful CDF.
<ul> <li>Self-Awareness</li> <li>Attention to Verbal Communication</li> <li>Attention to Non-Verbal Communication</li> <li>Non-Judgment"</li> </ul>	Please select each skill to learn more. When you are finished reading, please select the "Next" button to continue.
After selecting "Self-Awareness," the	To be an effective CDF, you need to listen not only to VA



Screen Description	Narration
screen displays:	employees but also to yourself.
<ul> <li>"Listen to how you respond: the tone of your voice, the language you use, etc.</li> <li>Take note of your thoughts and how you feel about what the employee is saying."</li> </ul>	Paying attention to your own thoughts and responses can help you identify how you feel about the individual and what they are saying.  This self-awareness will allow you to provide better support to all VA employees.
After selecting "Attention to Verbal Communication," the screen displays:	Listening to what an employee has to say is a critical way to gather information and gain clarity about an individual.
"Listen for:	You should listen to what someone says directly, or the explicit meaning of their words.
<ul> <li>Explicit meaning (what someone says)</li> <li>Implicit meaning (what someone implies)</li> </ul>	You should also pay attention to their implicit meaning, which means how they feel about or interpret a situation.
Identify:      Experiences     Thoughts     Behaviors     Tone"	Whether listening for explicit or implicit meaning, you should seek to identify: a person's experiences, or what actually happened to them; an individual's thoughts, or what they think about their experiences; a person's behaviors, namely, what they do or don't do; and an individual's tone, or the emotions in their voice.
After selecting "Attention to Non- Verbal Communication," the screen displays:	Individuals also convey important messages through non-verbal communication.
"Pay attention to:	Body language, facial expressions, and attitudes can all convey feelings just as powerfully as spoken words.
<ul> <li>Body positioning or movement</li> <li>Facial expressions</li> <li>Attitude</li> <li>Conflicting messages"</li> </ul>	Non-verbal communication may also convey a message that conflicts with what an individual says; in such cases, it is important to clarify how that employee actually feels.
After selecting "Non-Judgment," the screen displays:  • "Do not interrupt with suggestions or counter-	Active Listening requires an open mind. Your purpose as a CDF is to create an environment that allows individuals to develop their own careers; avoid being critical of an individual or inserting your personal judgments on their career



Screen Description	Narration
<ul><li>arguments.</li><li>Set aside your judgment and</li></ul>	progression.
focus on the messages conveyed.	Even if you disagree with an individual or have strong opinions, you should defer judgment and be open to different
<ul> <li>Assert your opinions and guidance respectfully."</li> </ul>	perspectives.
	Whenever you offer an opinion, do so with respect. Always treat an individual the way you would want to be treated.



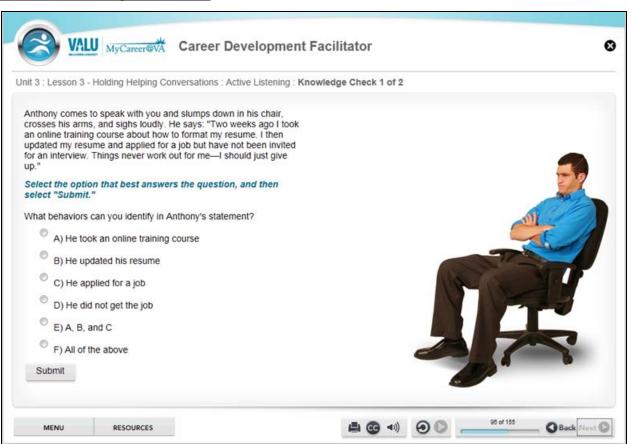
# <u>Screen 8 – Knowledge Check Introduction</u>



Screen Description	Narration
Centered on the screen is the course	Let's apply some Active Listening skills to a scenario you might
mentor smiling.	face while working with VA employees.
	On the following screens, please read the description of an
	interaction with an employee, and then answer the question
	that follows. Select the "Next" button when you're ready to
	begin.



#### Screen 9 - Knowledge Check 1 of 2



# **Screen Description** Narration On the left side, the screen displays a scenario, Select the option that best answers the question, and instructions, a question, and six possible then select the "Submit" button. answers. On the right side, the screen displays When you're finished, select the "Next" button to Anthony sitting slumped in his chair with his continue. arms crossed. Scenario: "Anthony comes to speak with you and slumps down in his chair, crosses his arms, and sighs loudly. He says: 'Two weeks ago I took an online training course about how to format my resume. I then updated my resume and applied for a job but have not been invited for an interview. Things never work out for me-I should just give up." Instructions: "Select the option that best



Screen Description	Narration
answers the question, and then select 'Submit.'"	
Question: "What behaviors can you identify in Anthony's statement?	
<ul> <li>A) He took an online training course</li> <li>B) He updated his resume</li> <li>C) He applied for a job</li> <li>D) He did not get the job</li> <li>E) A, B, and C</li> <li>F) All of the above"</li> </ul>	
Correct Answer: E	
After selecting "E," the screen displays: "You are correct!"	
After selecting the incorrect answer, the screen displays: "I'm sorry, that is incorrect. The behaviors evident in Anthony's response are that he took a course, updated his resume, and applied for a job."	



#### Screen 10 - Knowledge Check 2 of 2



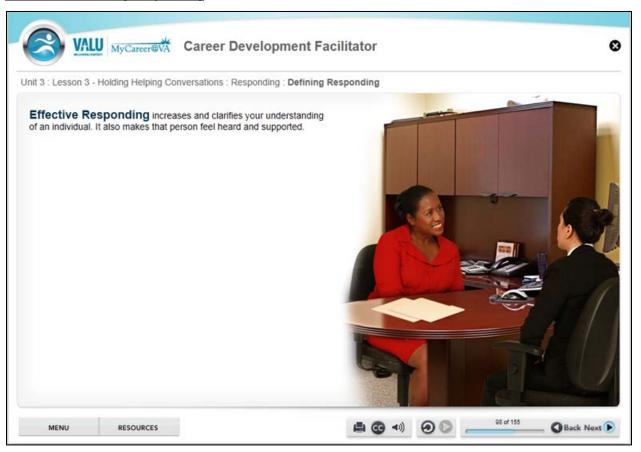
#### **Screen Description** Narration On the left side, the screen displays Please read to the scenario one more time and answer the scenario from the previous screen, another question. Select the option that best answers the question, and then select the "Submit" button. When you're instructions, a question, and four finished, select the "Next" button to continue. possible answers. On the right side, the screen displays Anthony sitting slumped in his chair with his arms crossed. Scenario: "Anthony comes to speak with you and slumps down in his chair, crosses his arms, and sighs loudly. He says: 'Two weeks ago I took an online training course about how to format my resume. I then updated my resume and applied for a job but have not been invited for an interview. Things



Screen Description	Narration
never work out for me—I should just give up."	
Instructions: "Select the option that best answers the question, and then select 'Submit."	
Question: "What thoughts or feelings can you identify in Anthony's statement and body language?	
<ul> <li>A) Anthony is optimistic he will get the job</li> <li>B) Anthony feels he often encounters obstacles</li> <li>C) Anthony feels frustrated</li> <li>D) B and C"</li> </ul>	
Correct Answer: D	
After selecting C, the screen displays: "You are correct! Anthony's language and body language convey that he feels he often encounters obstacles and is frustrated."	
After selecting the incorrect answer, the screen displays: "Incorrect. I'm sorry that is not correct. Anthony's language and body language convey that he often encounters obstacles and is frustrated"	



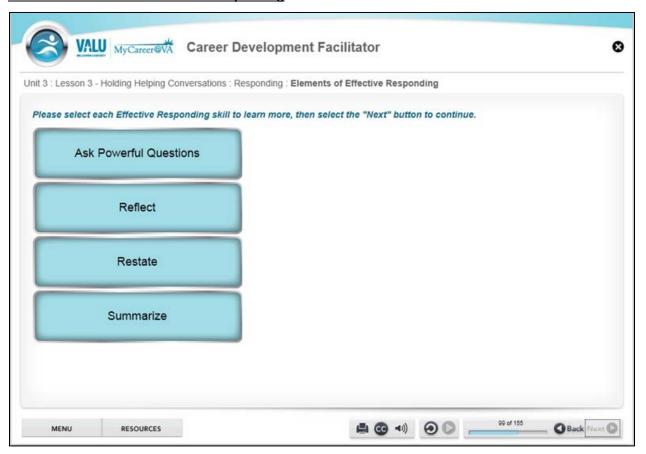
# Screen 11 - Defining Responding



Screen Description	Narration
On the right, the screen displays the	The second component of having productive helping
course mentor meeting an employee	conversations is Effective Responding.
at her desk. On the left side, the screen	
displays the following text:	Responding is the act of clarifying, communicating, and
	confirming a clear understanding of what someone else says.
"Effective Responding increases and	It also makes that person feel heard and supported
clarifies your understanding of an	
individual. It also makes that person	Please select the "Next" button to learn about the core
feel heard and supported."	elements of Effective Responding.



# Screen 12 - Elements of Effective Responding



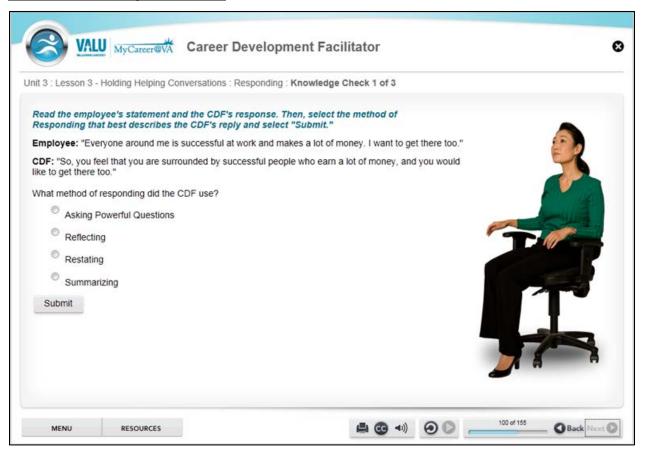
Screen Description	Narration
On the left side, the screen displays the	Effective Responding entails a few critical skills that should be
following text"	used during helping conversations, allowing you to be a more impactful CDF.
"Please select each Effective	
Responding skill to learn more, then	Please select each skill to learn more. When you are finished
select the "Next" button to continue.	reading, please select the "Next" button to continue.
Ask Powerful Questions	
<ul> <li>Reflect</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Restate</li> </ul>	
• Summarize"	
After selecting "Ask Powerful	Asking powerful questions increases your understanding of an
Questions," the screen displays:	individual and helps you provide them with more effective
Questions, the sereen displays.	career development support.
"Wait until the individual	



Screen Description	Narration
pauses; do not interrupt!  • Ask close-ended questions to test your understanding.	Close-ended questions usually generate brief, factual answers such as "yes" and "no."
Ask open-ended questions to gather more detail and insight into experiences or feelings."	Open-ended questions are thought provoking and require more in-depth reflection. They tend to address an individual's knowledge, opinions, or feelings.
	For a list of questions you can use in career development conversations, please consult the handout on the final screen of this lesson.
After selecting "Reflect," the screen displays:  • "Mirror an individual's	Reflecting both the content and feeling conveyed by employees shows them that you are paying attention to their words and emotions.
<ul> <li>message and emotions.</li> <li>Share your understanding of what an individual thinks and feels."</li> </ul>	It also helps you build empathy and makes them feel supported.
After selecting "Restate," the screen displays:	Restating an individual's main thought or feeling both confirms and enhances your understanding of what they have said.
<ul> <li>"Confirm your understanding.</li> <li>Allow an individual to hear and assess your reiteration of what they have said."</li> </ul>	It also gives them an opportunity to validate or re-consider their comments.
After selecting "Summarize," the screen displays:	In your own words, summarize the main thoughts or feelings an individual has expressed.
<ul> <li>"Share your interpretation of an individual's thoughts and feelings.</li> <li>Allow an individual to correct</li> </ul>	This allows you to process, not just recite, what an individual has said, which increases your understanding of their point of view.
<ul> <li>Allow an individual to correct misunderstandings.</li> <li>Clarify mutual responsibilities and next steps."</li> </ul>	Hearing your interpretation of their experiences encourages an individual to consider what they have said and correct misunderstandings.
	Summarizing also gives you the opportunity to clarify next steps and what each individual should do before your next meeting.



## Screen 13 - Knowledge Check 1 of 3



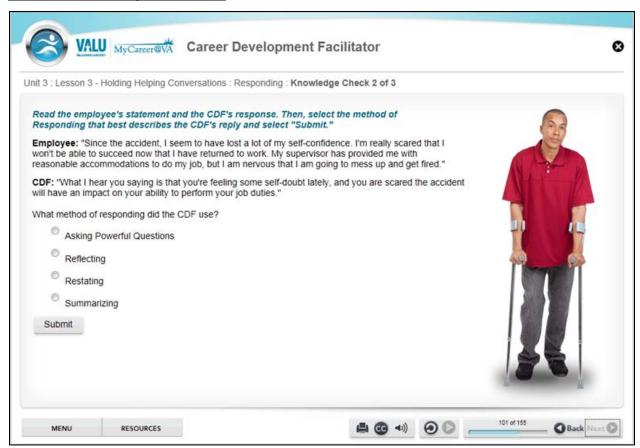
Screen Description	Narration
On the left side, the screen displays	Let's take a moment to apply what we have discussed about
instructions, a conversation, a	Effective Responding to scenarios you might face in your
question, and four possible answers.	work as a CDF.
On the right side, the screen displays	
an employee sitting in a chair.	Read the employee's statement and the CDF's response.
	Then, select the method of Responding that best describes
Instructions: "Read the employee's	the CDF's reply and select "Submit."
statement and the CDF's response.	
Then, select the method of	When you are finished, please select the "Next" button to
Responding that best describes the	continue.
CDF's reply and select 'Submit.'"	
Conversation:	
Conversation.	
"Employee: 'Everyone around"	
me is successful at work and	



Screen Description	Narration
<ul> <li>makes a lot of money. I want to get there too.'</li> <li>CDF: 'So, you feel that you are surrounded by successful people who earn a lot of money, and you would like to get there too.'"</li> </ul>	
Question: "What method of responding did the CDF use?	
<ul> <li>Asking Powerful Questions</li> <li>Reflecting</li> <li>Restating</li> <li>Summarizing"</li> </ul>	
Correct Answer: C	
After selecting C, the screen displays: "You are correct! The CDF's response is an example of Restating."	
After selecting the incorrect answer, the screen displays: "I'm sorry, that is incorrect. The CDF's response is an example of Restating."	



#### Screen 14 - Knowledge Check 2 of 3



Screen Description	Narration
On the left side, the screen displays	Please select the method that best describes this CDF's
instructions, a conversation, a	response.
question, and four answers. On the	
right side, the screen displays an	When you are finished, please select the "Next" button to
employee standing with arm crutches.	continue.
Instructions: "Read the employee's	
statement and the CDF's response.	
Then select the method of Responding	
that best describes the CDF's reply and	
select "Submit."	
Conversation:	
"Employee: Since the accident,	
I seem to have lost a lot of my	



Screen Description	Narration
self-confidence. I'm really	
scared that I won't be able to	
succeed now that I have	
returned to work. My	
supervisor has provided me	
with reasonable	
accommodations to do my job,	
but I am nervous that I am	
going to mess up and get fired.	
CDF: What I hear you saying is that you're feeling some self	
that you're feeling some self- doubt lately, and you are	
scared the accident will have	
an impact on your ability to	
perform your job duties."	
perrerui yeur jeu datresi	
Question: "What method of	
responding did the CDF use?	
Asking Powerful Questions	
Reflecting	
Restating	
Summarizing"	
Correct Answer: D	
After selecting D, the screen displays:	
"You are correct! The CDF's response is	
an example of Summarizing."	
After selecting the incorrect answer,	
the screen displays: "I'm sorry, that is	
incorrect. The CDF's response is an	
example of Summarizing."	



#### Screen 15 - Knowledge Check 3 of 3



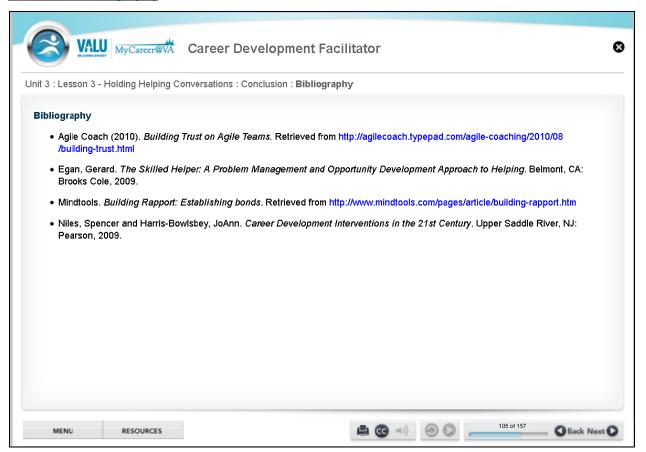
#### **Screen Description** Narration On the left side, the screen displays Now let's identify some powerful questions you can ask instructions, a statement, a question, and employees. seven possible checkbox answers. On the Please read the employee's statement followed by the list right side, the screen displays an of possible questions you could ask in response. employee sitting with his arms open and bent at the elbow, palms face up. Select the checkbox next to each question that can be considered open-ended, and then select "Submit". Instructions: "Please read the employee's statement and the list of possible When you are finished, please select the "Next" button to questions you could ask in response. continue. Select the checkbox next to each question that can be considered open ended, and then select 'Submit.'" Statement:



Screen Description	Narration
"Employee: I can't decide	
whether to go back to school to	
finish my bachelor's degree in	
electrical engineering. I	
completed two years of college	
but had to drop out to take care	
of my family when my mother got	
sick. I have worked as an	
electrician for five years, but I am	
starting to think about my long-	
term career. I want to be able to	
provide for my family, and I think	
I could be a good manager."	
Question: "Which of the following	
questions would be considered open	
ended?	
• 1. Where did you attend college?	
2. What do you like most about being	
an electrician and why?	
• 3. How do you contribute to your	
current team?	
• 4. How big is your family?	
5. What would make you feel like you	
had a successful long-term career?	
6. Why do you think you would be a good manager?	
<ul><li>good manager?</li><li>7. How can you develop the skills you</li></ul>	
<ul> <li>/. How can you develop the skills you need to accomplish your goals?"</li> </ul>	
need to accomplish your goals:	
Correct Answers: 2,3,5,6,7	
After selecting 2, 3,5,6,7 the screen	
displays "You are correct! Questions 1	
and 4 are NOT open ended."	
After selecting an incorrect answer, the	
screen displays "I'm sorry, that is	
incorrect. Only questions 1 and 4 are	
NOT open ended."	
·	



## Screen 16 - Bibliography



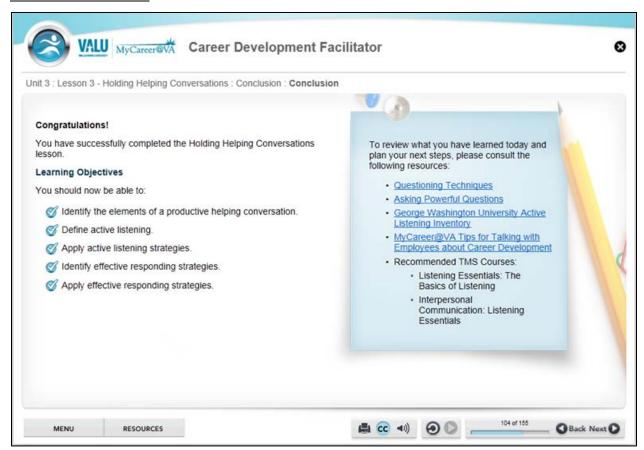
Screen Description	Narration
Centered on the screen is a bibliography:	No Narration
<ul> <li>Agile Coach (2010). Building Trust on Agile Teams. Retrieved from <a href="http://agilecoach.typepad.com/agile-coaching/2010/08/building-trust.html">http://agilecoach.typepad.com/agile-coaching/2010/08/building-trust.html</a></li> <li>"Egan, Gerard. The Skilled Helper: A Problem Management and Opportunity Development Approach to Helping. Belmont, CA: Brooks Cole, 2009.</li> <li>Mindtools. Building Rapport: Establishing bonds. Retrieved from <a href="http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/building-rapport.htm">http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/building-rapport.htm</a></li> </ul>	



Screen Description	Narration
<ul> <li>Niles, Spencer and Harris-Bowlsbey, JoAnn.</li> <li>Career Development Interventions in the 21st</li> <li>Century. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson,</li> <li>2009."</li> </ul>	No Narration



#### Screen 17 - Conclusion



Screen Description	Narration
On the left side, the screen displays	Congratulations! You have successfully completed the
"Congratulations! You have successfully	lesson on Holding Helping Conversations that focuses on
completed the Holding Helping	Active Listening and Effective Responding.
Conversations lesson" and the Learning	
Objectives.	Please review the Learning Objectives and access any
	resources to reinforce the information covered in this
Learning Objectives:	lesson.
"You should now be able to:	Select the "Next" button to return to the course homepage.
a Identify the elements of a	
Identify the elements of a  productive belong convergation	
productive helping conversation.	
Define active listening.	
<ul> <li>Apply active listening strategies.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Identify effective responding</li> </ul>	
strategies.	



Screen Description	Narration
<ul> <li>Apply effective responding</li> </ul>	
strategies."	
On the right side, the screen displays	
Resources:	
"To review what you have learned today	
and plan your next steps, please consult	
the following resources:	
<ul> <li>Questioning Techniques</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Asking Powerful Questions</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>George Washington University</li> </ul>	
Active Listening Inventory	
MyCareer@VA Tips for Talking	
with Employees about Career	
<u>Development</u>	
Recommended TMS Courses:	
o Listening Essentials: The	
Basics of Listening	
<ul><li>Interpersonal</li><li>Communication:</li></ul>	
Listening Essentials"	
Listering Essentials	