

## BEFORE APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL / Joseph Heathcott

### The Big Stuff

What is a PhD: what does it do / not do?

Why do you want to pursue one at this time?

What are your vocational goals?

How will you balance life, happiness, time, location?

### Searching for and studying programs

Disciplines, fields, interdisciplinarity, entry requirements

Location, faculty, program size, average time to completion

U.S. vs. European systems

Masters required vs. not required

### Identifying potential advisors

Track record with students

Fields of research

Stature in the field

Capacity to take on new students

### Identifying recommendation writers

Knowledge of your scholarly and practice interests

Experience reviewing the quality of your work

Commitment to your success

Stature in the field

### Your preparation

Work / life experience

Track record as a student

Overall GPA vs. how well you did in the major

Research profile - seminar paper, thesis, conferences, publications