



Ryan Johnson

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Degree(s):

BA Hons. Classical Languages, University of Guelph
MA Classical Studies, University of Waterloo

Current Position: Editor, 5m Publishing

Crucial and useful skill(s) learned through your studies:

How to use my mind! Classics taught me more than just how the Greeks and Roman thought, but how to think for myself and inform my day-to-day decisions with sound reasoning and clear evidence. I learned that details are as important as the context in which they are found, and questions are as important as answers. Most importantly, I learned that knowing something isn't the same as understanding something, and we should always strive to contribute more than just knowledge to the future.

What career advice would you give to your younger self?

Not rushing is not the same as not trying: master a few things, and then challenge yourself by taking on a little more than you think you can handle - and then master that as well. Get involved with the community and participate. Be kind, and read everyday. Regarding the study of ancient cultures, don't underestimate the power of language - the ancients certainly didn't. Language, written and spoken, was a cornerstone of society in a more tangible way than it is now. Don't be afraid to learn their languages; translation gives you more than a knowledge of ancient Greek and Latin; it will open doors for you both mental and practical and will help you to understand both the past and the present on a much deeper level.

What is a detail about you that all must know?

“Love is taking a few steps backward, maybe even more...to give way to the happiness of the person you love.” - Winnie-the-Pooh