Journalism 101 Editorial Writing Assignment Sheet

In class, students will watch the 2007 documentary “The Devil Came on Horseback,” which chronicles how former U.S. Marine Captain Brian Steidle was among those who brought to the world’s attention the genocide in Darfur, Sudan. The 85-minute film graphically details the genocide through Steidle’s photos and narrative. After the movie, we will discuss how the film is an example of a type of editorial, as the goal of a good editorial is not only to sway an audience’s opinion but also to inspire people to take action.

Following the film, students will be asked to investigate either this issue or any global issue. In doing their research, students must keep in mind that they will be writing 1 ½-page editorials that urge Brookdale students to take some type of action. It is not enough for the editorial to condemn an action or ongoing activity, the editorial must point out specific steps a Brookdale student can take to help. For instance, students can be urged to write to legislators, make sure their money is not invested in corrupt governments and donate to aid organizations.

 Editorials may then be submitted to The Stall student newspaper for possible publication.