“Step Into a Refugee Camp”—an online multi-modal news story

**Directions:** This is a 10:48-minute video from the *NY Times* that appeared on my Facebook feed recently. Just follow the URL below to see it. First read the text section on multi-modal news, (89-107), then consider as you watch this how the audio/visual elements of this multimodal argument operate on you as an audience member. You don’t need to write answers to the questions below, but be ready to discuss them in some detail in class.

1. Does this seem like a credible news story? Why or why not?
2. How does it seem designed to affect the viewer’s emotions? What visuals, sounds, or words seem particularly likely to have an emotional effect? What emotions are stirred up, specifically?
3. What information does this offer that wouldn’t be as effectively conveyed through just words or just pictures? Is there any information (logos) that you thought was particularly interesting or effective in helping to make the viewer believe, understand, or feel something?
4. Is there anything else you think they should have covered? Or is there something you think they shouldn’t have covered? Why or why not?
5. What is the effect of the running comments from viewers in the sidebar? Would you prefer to just have the video straight, or did you like that added element? Why?

Step Into a Refugee Camp **By DEBORAH ACOSTA | Dec. 30, 2016 | 10:48**

In September, we visited a Syrian refugee camp while live on Facebook, and brought *The New York Times’s* audience along. We went to the Zaatari refugee camp in [Jordan](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/jordan/index.html?inline=nyt-geo), one of the largest Syrian camps in the world, after our audience said in countless comments that they wanted to see and interact with Syrian refugees.

At Zaatari, we met dozens of people, mostly children. Many had been living at the camp since the start of the Syrian revolution. Throughout our live segments, you were able to reach across geographic and ideological divides to share your thoughts and questions.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/30/world/middleeast/syrian-refugees-on-the-war-their-camp-and-your-questions.html>