

Question: The author says she stood “at that momentous crossroads” on January 28. Explain how this statement is both literal and figurative.

Thesis Statement:	The author stood at a literal crossroad but also a figurative one in her personal and <u>public life</u> .
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Body Paragraph #1

The author stood at a **literal crossroads**. In the piece *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution*, Ahdaf Soueif stands at a literal crossroads after she and the revolutionists were able to gain metres and hold their ground. “On 28 January, standing at that momentous crossroads, the Nile behind us, the Arab League building to our left, the old Ministry of Foreign Affairs to our right, seeing nothing up ahead except the gas and smoke and fire that stood between us and our capital, we stood our ground and sang and chanted and placed our lives, with all trust and confidence, in each other’s hands.” (Soueif 76). The quote from the reading shows the reader that Soueif stands at a literal crossroad due to her describing the actual crossroad she and the people around here are standing on. **The crossroad the author stood at is not only literal but also figurative.**

Body Paragraph #2

The author stood at a figurative crossroads in her **personal** life. In the piece *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution*, Ahdaf Soueif stands at a figurative crossroads in her personal life while deciding on whether or not she will join the revolution. “Yes, let’s,’ they say. I tell the boatman we’ve changed our minds: we don’t want to cross the river to Giza and go home, we want to be dropped off under Qasr el-Nil Bridge.” (Soueif 74). The quote from the reading shows the reader that Soueif stands at a figurative crossroads in her personal life due to the decision she made of whether or not to join the revolution. **The crossroad the author stood at is not only figurative in her personal life but also figurative in her public life.**

Thesis points

Topic Sentence

Introduce

Cite

Explain

Transition

Question: *The author says she stood “at that momentous crossroads” on January 28. Explain how this statement is both literal and figurative.*

Thesis Statement:	The author stands at a figurative crossroads in her personal and public life but also a <u>literal one</u> .
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Body Paragraph #1

The author stands at a figurative crossroads in her **personal** life. In the piece *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution* by Ahdaf Soueif, the author is on her way home away from the place where the revolution is taking place. She is traveling with her nieces and stops to debate whether to join or leave the revolution, she is at a crossroads. “A great shout goes up from Qasr el-Nil. I look at Salma and Mariam. ‘Yes, let’s,’ they say. I tell the boatman we’ve changed our minds: we don’t want to cross the river to Giza, and go home, we want to be dropped off under Qasr el-Nil Bridge” (Soueif 20-23). The author has decided that she and her nieces will not go home and instead join the revolution. She and her nieces are no longer at a crossroads. They are not the only ones at a crossroads, the crossroads are open to the public.

Body Paragraph #2

The author stands at a figurative crossroads in her **public life**. In the piece *Cairo: My City, Our Revolution* by Ahdaf Soueif, there is a revolution happening. There is an underpass you can go under to join the masses of people that are rebelling. “So we ran through the underpass, scrambled up the bank and found ourselves within, inside, and part of the masses” (Soueif 32-33). The underpass represents the invisible line separating the rebels from their oppressors. Crossing it means that person is now joining something much bigger than themselves and saying it to the world. The underpass is a physical symbol of a figurative meaning.

Thesis points

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