**Developing a perspective:**

You will need to develop a perspective in your monologue, representing concepts, identities, times and places and invite your audience to question or reflect on the cultural context of the original text and/or the new cultural context.

**Cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs:**

Writers are influenced by their own cultural assumptions when they create texts. They assume that the values, attitudes and beliefs they hold are valid and justified – that they are shared by most people in society. They then use these shared assumptions to position their reader/audience. Ideas are constructed with these in mind whilst also being aware of other prevailing cultural beliefs within society. An assumption is made that any gaps in the text will be filled as the reader/audience employs these assumptions as they read/watch.

As you create your monologue, you will have to do the same thing: demonstrate that you understand that the social and historical context of the play held particular assumptions/values/beliefs/attitudes, inviting your audience to question or reflect on them through the context or your reimagined text.

Therefore, you need to have a clear understanding of both the cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs of Macbeth and those that you wish to create yourself in your monologue. We have covered these in the base text earlier in the topic.

Consider the backgrounds of the characters of the play. Macbeth’s attitudes, values and beliefs will differ to those of other characters, as well as there may be some similarities. It will be very important to reflect your selected character’s attitudes, values and beliefs in an authentic manner so as to create a clear character voice.

**Activity 1:**

Consider the base text Macbeth. Cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs may relate to the following topics:  
Class, gender, the supernatural, morality, power, societal expectations, religion, fate & free will, relationships, ambition, loyalty & betrayal, and superstition.

Choose 3 of these topics and explain how the audience is invited to question or reflect on each assumption.

* Power and societal expectations: The central plot of the play unfolds around Macbeth taking the title of King, and later conflicts result from his incompetence in fulfilling the responsibilities of the role. This invites the audience to question the qualities / characteristics that denote a person ‘fit’ to hold power over society.
* Fate & free will; superstition: The usage of the witches’ prophecies ties the play’s ideas of fate & free will to concepts of superstition, provoking the audience to contemplate