

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Paired Activity for “The Dinner Party”:

You have read the article, “Why Men and Women Handle Stress Differently”, by Brunilda Nazario, MD. And the short story, “The Dinner Party”, by Mona Gardner. Pretend you were a guest at the dinner party who decided to research the debate from the evening in more depth. Write a letter to the colonel to set the record straight, explaining the facts behind the differences in men and women and their response to stress. Be sure to include:

- Information about why men and women react differently to stress
- An explanation of the “tend and befriend” theory of stress response
- An explanation of how the hostess fits the “tend and befriend” theory of stress response
- An explanation of the “fight or flight” theory of stress response
- An explanation of why the “fight or flight” stress response might have endangered everyone at the party.
- Details from the article and the story to support your statements.

Writing questions:

How would you organize this letter to be sure and cover all of the required parts in a way that would flow for your reader?

What tone might your letter take? Why?