



2026 APPLICATION FORM
**BARBARA NEELY/MWA AWARD for
UNPUBLISHED MYSTERY WRITERS**

Office use only:
App No _____
Received _____

Fill in **All INFORMATION** and **SEND TO:** mwa@mysterywriters.org

Applicant's Full Name		
Home Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Telephone	E-Mail	
Applicant's date of birth (month/day/year)		

Eligibility:

1. Applicant must identify as Black, be an American citizen, and be age 18 or older.
2. Applicant's membership in MWA is *not* required.
3. Applicant must not have been published (traditionally or self-published) in the mystery/crime fiction genre nor previously won a Barbara Neely Award.

Checklist of items to email together as attachments in ONE email submission:

- 1) **Completed application form (this form) for the 2026 Barbara Neely Award.**
- 2) **A short essay** (300-500 words) explaining your interest in mystery writing and how the money will assist you; whether it's a class, equipment, time away for writing, etc.
- 3) **A 5-page writing sample, in the mystery genre.**
- 4) **A brief bio, no more than 200 words.**
- 5) **A copy of your CV/resume highlighting your writing career.**

Electronic Signature of Applicant attesting to meeting all eligibility requirements:

Submit all application materials to:

mwa@mysterywriters.org

Please put "Neely Unpublished Writer Award" in subject line

E-mail for inquiries: mwa@mysterywriters.org

Application deadline: November 1, 2026